

**THE FAMILY TREE**

**And Short Sketches**

**In the**

**LIFE HISTORY OF JON WATSON AND AGNESS BEGG WATSON**

**And Their Descendants**

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**By WILLIAM WALCOTT WATSON.**

**BARRY. ILLINOIS.**

**1929.**

## MY CREED

By Harold Arnold Walters.

I would be true, for there are those that  
trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who  
care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suf-  
fer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.  
I would be friend of all—the foe—the friend-  
less;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
I would look up—and laugh—and love—and lift.

So very true of my father

Margaret A. Cooke

## THE HILLS OF BARRY.

Do you know the Hills of Barry,  
Have you sauntered through their lanes,  
Smelled their fragrance of the orchards  
And beheld their grassy plains.

Have their tinkling brooks with music,  
Like sweet songs your ears entranced,  
Have their bright autumnal banners  
In their splendor for you danced.

Have you quaffed from springs of crystal  
Gushing from their rocky crest,  
And beneath their friendly maples,  
Found cool shelter and sweet rest.

Have you met their sturdy people,  
Staunch and honest as their sod--  
Clasped their hands and crossed their thresholds  
Sensed their love for men and God.

Come ye to the hills of Barry,  
Pilgrims of the wending way,  
Stop your car; unpack your baggage;  
O'er our hills you'll love to stray.

--Rev. C. W. Hamand, Barry, Ill.

### SO LITTLE TIME.

O life, there is so little time for living!  
O heart, there is so short a while for love!  
O hungry eyes that shall go, unforgiving,  
Into the darkness, closed to skies above!

I cannot bear to lose the whole world's beauty:  
Tall poplars flung against the high white moon;  
And flowers' fragrance; songs remembered mutely;  
And silence sobbing on the lonely dune.

Too soon these eager hands will cease their yearning  
For little things they love; the swift, sweet touch  
Of friendship; velvet's softness; the returning  
Caress of dogs; small homely tasks; and such.

But O, if we store up, against forgetting,  
The little vagrant things we're dreaming of,  
Perhaps we shall go down with small regretting  
There was so brief a time for life and love!

And when Life brings at last from all her treasure,  
Her final gift—the last adventure—Death,  
Then laughingly we'll tread that stately measure,  
And blow a kiss to Life with love's last breath.  
For Death is Life's fulfillment of the dream-lust  
For beauty, music, romance—Paradise.

And somewhere, O my soul, will be blue stardust  
To weave new raptures down the dawnlit skies!

Lauretta Hogan.

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION.

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Some years ago in a home in Barry I ran across a unique volume entitled "A Family Tree." It was an historical review of the lives of the members of one of our oldest families. I thought what a fine idea; what a legacy to leave for younger and future generations. It was so impressed upon my mind that I then resolved to some day prepare such a volume of our own families. Time has gone on and I neglected my vow. At this late date, when I am the only living representative of our parents, I am undertaking to fulfill my pledge. How well I will succeed is not for me to say.

The sketches herein contained are not intended for the public eye, but are for the information of the children and grandchildren of the families named. No apology is offered and no eulogies are intended, but I can see no impropriety in giving credit where credit is due, even to our relatives.

I feel that such a volume is due and that some day it may be appreciated by our posterity, if it is not appreciated now.

This introduction was written by me on my seventy second birthday, in my home in Barry, Illinois, where I have passed so many years of my life and in the place of birth of both of my brothers. In my present frame of mind, enjoying as I do fairly good health, and surrounded by a loving help-meet and affectionate children and grandchildren, kind and neighborly friends, I am duly appreciative of my situation as the days and months go by.

What more can one of my years expect.

WILLIAM WALCOTT WATSON.

Barry, Illinois.

1929.

## THE FAMILY TREE.

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Our Watson family was one of genuine Scottish ancestry. The elder generation were natives of Paisley, which city was the home of both of our parents, Jon and Agness Begg Watson. Both parents were carefully brought up under the influences of strict Presbyterian faith, with excellent teaching and most painstaking training. They received very good educational advantages and were started out in life with a consciousness of having received the benefit of splendid Christian influences.

John Watson, Sr., father of Jon Watson, was in his younger days an employe of a large gauze factory, and is understood to have been a designer of the celebrated Paisley shawls.

Agness Begg's parents were John and Jane Begg of Paisley. John Begg was an educator of no mean ability and had a very good standing in his profession.

This brief statement is all I can give of the lives of our grandparents, who passed away years ago without ever having seen any of us children. Neither of our grandparents ever journeyed to America and our parents were not privileged to visit in Scotland after settling in this country. I feel that we would have been proud of all the older members of families on both sides of the house. They were worthy of full space in this volume.



J O N W A T S O N .

Photographic Copy of Painting Made at  
Paisley, Scotland, in 1827.

## JON WATSON.

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Jon Watson spent his early life and young manhood in his native city of Paisley. He was born November 23, 1805. He was educated in the schools of his day in that city and when of sufficient age to accept employment he was taken as an apprentice in the great J. & P. Coats Cotton Thread Factory, where he continued his labors for several years. He was married three times, once before leaving his native country and twice after arriving in his adopted country. All of his wives were of his own nationality. His first wife was Mary Torrens, the daughter of John Torrens and wife, who were also residents of Paisley. They were united in marriage about 1835 or 1836, and on July 26, 1837, a daughter was born to them in the person of Mary Ann Jessie Watson. Five years later, in 1842, this family departed for America to better their condition.

Accompanying Jon Watson and family were Thomas <sup>July 1836</sup> Watson, brother, and family, and his sister Esther White and husband and family. While on the ship coming across the Atlantic ocean Mary Torrens Watson sickened and died, and was buried at sea as was the custom of those days.

Upon arriving in this country Jon Watson and his little daughter at once set out for Nauvoo, Illinois, where they were induced to locate under Mormon influences. The conditions at this religious settlement were not such as appealed to the father and he soon left with his daughter bound for Quincy, where they remained a short time and then came to Barry, where the father engaged in school teaching for a time.

Jon Watson's brother Thomas and family located at Fowler, Illinois, a small village near Quincy, where they engaged in farming. There they reared a family of several sons, and the parents lived to an old age. The sons went west, some of them

locating in Kansas and others in Nebraska and the state of Washington. Nearly all of the older members of the family have passed away.

Mother Watson and her husband, Thomas White, Sr., came to Quincy and from that city journeyed on to Pike County, Illinois, and settled near this city. They also reared a large family of several sons and one daughter, some of whom were born in Scotland. The sons were Thomas, Jr., Louis D., Alexander, John W., William F., and George W., and the daughter was Esther, who became the wife of W. Nicol, and they also reared a large family in Pike County, Ill. Some of the White sons engaged in business in Harry—Mr. F. and Alexander entering the general mercantile business and pork packing, while John W. opened a cooper shop. The family of Wm. Nicol lived on a farm for a few years and then went to Salt Lake City to live, where two of the sons went into business. All of the family except Bill Nicol are now dead.

Of the Whites, L. D. and Thomas, Jr., engaged in the stove manufacturing business and the hardware and stove business. Geo. W. took a business engagement as traveling salesman. Some of these men still have descendants at Quincy.

Jon Watson's second wife was named Isabella, last of what family I am not certain. My impression is she was the sister of his first wife, Mary Tervens his first wife, but it is possible she was not. I learned from the tombstone in the Barry Cemetery that Isabella died Dec. 11, 1849, at the age of 37 years, and was buried there. It is presumed that she died in Harry, or at least in America. She left no descendants.

Jon Watson's third wife was Agness Degg Watson, and their wedding took place at the home of her sister, Mrs. Brown, in Quincy, in the year 1850. Soon after the marriage the couple came to Barry and located in the dwelling on Lot Eight, Block 2. There two sons were born to them, Elmore Matthew Watson, Nov. 23, 1851, and Jon Degg Watson, born Dec. 19, 1853. After a few years at this location

our father purchased from Nathaniel Smith a twelve acre tract of land, known to the family as the "farm" and that became the residence about 1855. At that location this writer was born Feb. 16, 1857. The "farm" was located at the right hand side of the Smith hill, just before descending, and was in fact a very good section.

The occupation of teaching school, which was engaged in by our father on his arrival in Barry vicinity was different from school teaching as now conducted. The facilities was of the very meagre sort. There were no regularly laid out school districts, and the teachers received no stated salaries, but took the pupils on the tuition plan and boarded out a good part of it with the parents of the pupils. Father's first school was taught in a log school house that stood on part of the north - west quarter of Section Twenty-six, Barry Township. That was just north of the site of Little St. Louis, a prosperous village of that period. Following his engagement there he taught in one or two other sections of this township. For equipment in all of his schools he had the usual sawed native lumber for floors and benches, a small wood stove for heating and a few other inferior pieces of furniture. That was not to his liking and he was not long in finding another occupation.

Our father's next occupation was as book-keeper for the firm of Angle & Brown, general merchants, with whom he remained a few years until he started in business for himself, which he did in 1850. He was located then in the building on the corner of Block 20, part of the building being occupied as the family home. The store room was a comparatively small one, and his stock was also small. Beside the store he took on the position of postmaster of the village, succeeding Nathaniel Smith. He was also a notary public and did work pertaining to that office. The postoffice business was light and the income correspondingly small. The salary was based

on the cancellation of stamps then, as now with the second class postmasters, postage then was charged according to distance and weight of letters. The letter postage averaged about twenty-five cents for each letter.

After a few years residence on the farm the family went to live in a small dwelling on Lot One, Block Twenty-three, where was also located the store, which had been removed to a frame building built for that purpose. It was at that location we lived when the head of the family was removed, Aug 10, 1862, after an illness of several weeks.

That Jon Watson held a place of affection in the hearts of his fellow townsmen was evident from the sincerity of their actions both before and after his passing. To one and all of his neighbors he had been the same kindly genial gentleman. He was the one man in the community that was called upon to arbitrate difficulties and settle the problems of differences between them; to do their letter writing to loved ones, and the calculations of weights of grain and livestock.

By his hosts of friends "Uncle Jonny" was regarded as the soul of honor, and his word went without question. When he engaged in business for himself he took his friend with him as customers.

In the height of his activities, at the age of fifty-six years, our father closed his career and left his widow with three small sons and one daughter in sad bereavement.

His neighbors pronounced it a sad day when he departed. Honors were showered upon him, and he was tenderly laid away in the village cemetery.

The memory of Jon Watson is still revered by all living who remember his talents and his kindly acts for others. "And his good works do follow him."



Agness Begg Watson.

## AGNESS BEGG WATSON.

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Agness Begg was born in Paisley, Mar. 4, 1813. Her parents were John and Jane Begg, both of that city. She grew to young womanhood in her native country, and after obtaining her education and parental blessing, at the age of about twenty-eight years, she sailed for America. Her sister, Jeanie Brown, and husband, Wm. Brown, and family, and her brother, Wm. Begg, and family soon followed her to the land of promise, as they were pleased to call this country. The Browns located in Quincy, and Wm. Begg and family located at Pierre, South Dakota. Mr. Brown engaged in the manufacture of crackers and confectionery, and baking, raised a large family and prospered.

Wm. Begg was an educator in the old country and expected to follow that profession in the new land, but he was not successful at it and then took to farming, having pre-empted some land in that undeveloped country. He was not calculated for tilling the soil either, and left that calling to his sons. The family saw some hard times in their early residence in the new home, and several times mother was called upon to aid the brother's family financially. Wm. Begg also tried his hand as an author of books, but neither did he make a success in that endeavor. One of his books, entitled "Pneumonics or Aids to Memory" I have in my library at this time. This brother visited us along in the seventies, but we never saw him afterward. He has long since passed to his reward, leaving a grown family. It is possible some of the sons are still living at or near Pierre, but mother lost track of them many years ago.

The voyage of Agness Begg across the Atlantic was made in one of the small sailing vessels of that day, and in the light of modern sailing was indeed reman-

tic. They were on the ocean eight or ten weeks and mother often related to us children the perils and discomforts to which she was subjected, which were thrilling enough to us. She finally landed at New Orleans, where she remained some time, and taught school there for a term or two.

From New Orleans, Mother came up the Mississippi river on one of the boats that plied the river then and landed at Alton, Ill., where there were some old country friends. At Alton she again engaged in the educational pursuit for a time, and then left that city for Quincy, Ill., where she spent some time with her sister, Mrs. Brown. It was at the home of this sister the wedding of Jon Watson and Agness Begg took place. That was in 1850. In a short time the couple left for Barry to make their home for themselves and the young daughter, Mary Ann Jessie.

The details of how the family resided at the property on Lot 8, Block 20, need not be recited nor how they conducted the postoffice, then removed to the dwelling on Lot 1, Block 23, where the family resided for many years were given elsewhere, and need not be repeated.

At the death of our father, mother inherited the business and continued it for several years. She was well calculated for her new undertaking, as she had a natural talent in that direction. With her three sons to care for and nurture and educate she certainly had her hands full. Ordinarily it is all the average woman cares to do to care for her children, let alone attend to other duties.

The stock of goods consisted of dry goods, millinery, notions and shoes. The trade was not extensive but was steady and fairly remunerative. The three sons grew up thus with merchandising impressed upon their minds, but only one of the boys took to it in after years, and that was Jon B. Watson.

Mother looked after the store in day time, while the hired girl attended to the house work, this person being Emma Shipman most of the time. Mother's niece, Edith Miscal, staid with us part of the time. Us boys were in school when it was in session.



Tom, John & Willie  
Wilson

1863



Agness Begg Watson.

In the evening Mother, with her good friend Sarah Carswell, went out regularly for a walk for exercise or to visit some sick friend or some lonely one. That was their evening round, except on Sundays, when she invariably went to church and took us boys. Her religion was at that time on the order of the Seventh Day Adventists, or sometimes called "Soul Sleepers." One thing, she was certainly faithful to her church, and never was a more Christian spirit manifested or daily lived than by my mother. Us boys stoutly objected to attending the Sunday meetings, however, as they were conducted by some local brother like R. D. Warriner, a barber and jeweler of our town who would exhort and propound scriptures by the hour, seemingly, while we fretted and squirmed and tried to go to sleep, but rarely could do so. Those services set me against church going for several years after.

At nine o'clock mother and all of us boys were supposed to be at home and ready to retire. Mother was always on time, but we boys sometimes failed to show up for a while after nine, for which we received a good scolding. That custom was kept up until we outgrew the practice and we could be trusted to take care of ourselves.

Along in the sixties a misfortune overtook our family, when the store and stock of goods took fire and were totally destroyed. The loss to us was very heavy. That was the first fire I had ever attended and I was so excited I could not go to bed again that night. There was no fire company in town at that time, but the citizens turned out with their water buckets and worked manfully, really saved our residence, which was connected with the store. They also saved the residence and store of Isaac Ware our next door neighbor, which was only a few feet away. How they could ever do it has always been a mystery to me.

Our mother was never so very wrought up over the loss and soon after the fire contracted with W. T. Mitchell for a new two story brick building to replace the old frame building.

The new building was rushed forward and in a few months was finished and ready for occupancy, altho all the material had to be hauled from Quincy. The store was opened with a new and better stock.

It was about the time of this fire, and a few years after the death of our father, that a man named Archambeau showed up at our house and suggested to our mother that he was living a lonely life and asked her hand in marriage. Just how long she had known the man and what his inducements were we never knew, but he was successful and the wedding took place. The union was not a happy one, and did not last long. A separation followed and Archambeau left town and was not seen thereafter by any of us. Mother never complained of his absence.

Mother was never very strong and her health commenced to fail in 1879, so the stock of goods was turned over to our brother Jon B. who moved it over to the building across the street, where the family had lived years before. A few years later he moved the goods to New Salem, Ill., and opened a store at that place. Jon B. had in the mean time married and established a home at his new location, and mother went there to live with them. She remained there few years and then left for Griggsville, Ill., to make her home with her son Thomas M., who had year before married and located at that city, where he was a practicing physician.

While residing in Griggsville, mother met with an accident that shortened her days. She fell and broke her hip. For four years she sat in an easy chair, suffering intense pain, and was scarcely able to lie down in bed at night with any comfort. She was relieved by death Aug. 16, 1895. The funeral took place from my home in Barry on the 18th of Aug. 1895. Rev. Wm. McElfresh of the M. E. Church read the funeral service, and as the evening sun was disappearing in the west the frail body was laid beside her husband in the village cemetery.

In this connection some facts obtained by let-

ters mother received from her father at Paisley, have an interesting bearing. Writing under date of August 2, 1842, to Agness Begg, in care of Thomas Carlyle, Asbury Heath, Guilford, Surry, S. B., he seemed very solicitous about her being away from home. He speaks of being at a watering place called The Troon, where they went for his wife's benefit; stated that he had not received a direct word from his son-in-laws, Wm. Brown and James Kerr and others who had come to America that year, but said his neighbor, John Watson, Sr., had received from his son, Jon Watson, at Quincy, Ill., that these men had arrived at that city after a passage of 10 weeks. Other letters received by John Begg stated that "Americans were a wicked people, and Mormonites were much worse; that the Sabbath was so profaned that they had no Sabbath; that the country had been misrepresented to them; that they had not made any settlements yet, and would return home in the fall of the year." This letter closed with the remarks, "I am afraid our near and dear relations have met with disappointment in going to America. But what is this world but a world full of disappointments. Wishing you temporal and spiritual health, temporal and spiritual comfort, and that you may be led to a situation more suitable to your circumstances, is the desire of your affectionate father, John Begg."



Bunyan Mc Connell



Mary Ann Jessie Watson McConnell  
"Mollie"



## MARY ANN JESSIE WATSON.

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In her early life she was called "Mollie;" years before she was called away she was referred to by her friends as "Aunt Mollie." Her real name, as recorded in the family Bible was Mary Ann Jessie Watson.

When Jon Watson departed from the home in Paisley with his young wife and little daughter they entertained high hopes and aspirations for the future in their proposed adopted country, America. This was about the year 1840 or 1842. Mary Ann Jessie was born in Paisley July 26, 1837.

The voyage across the Atlantic ocean was long and wearisome. The ship was a sailing one and took several weeks to make the trip. On the voyage the mother, Mary ~~Torrens~~<sup>Ann</sup> Watson, took sick and passed away. Thus were the anticipations of the family blasted. Instead of entering their new world with light and happy hearts, the father and daughter had to continue their journey in sadness.

The father had received such glowing accounts of the prospects at Nauvoo, Ill., from Mormon emissaries who visited Scotland, that he decided to locate there. He was not long in finding out that he had been misled, however, and they departed for Quincy, Ill., where several relatives and old country friends had located. There they were advised to go to Barry and locate, and did so. That was in 1842. The father took up as his first occupation in his new field of labor, school teaching, in a small log house just north of Little St. Louis, a thriving village of that age. There were no school districts then and teachers were not paid regular salaries. Pupils were taken on the tuition plan, and the teacher boarded most of it out among the families of the students. Wherever the young teacher went he took his little daughter, Mary Ann Jessie.

School teaching was not Jon Watson's forte, and

he soon began looking around for some other occupation. He was offered and accepted a position as accountant for the firm of Anglo & Brown, general merchants and pork packers.

In 1850 the father found a new life companion in the person of Agnes Bogg, and in a few days the family home was established in Barry, and Mary Ann Jessie was blessed with a step mother who gave her the love, care and attention she so badly needed. From then on Mary Ann Jessie was more carefully looked after. She was placed in the public schools and in the Sunday school conducted by the Christian society of which her father was a trustee. At the age of twenty she began teaching herself. She succeeded.

Almost before Mary Ann Jessie's womanhood had developed her social career opened. She was a favorite with her social set. She was a happy, care free, vivacious, and brilliant young lady, and her companionship was sought by many young men of the neighborhood, who enjoyed the pleasure of her society. The favored one was finally not and their friendship developed into an engagement.

The wedding of Mary Ann Jessie Watson and Duncan McConnell, a native of New Jersey, who had lately located in Barry, took place at the home of the bride in Barry, Feb. 12, 1860, about six months before her father died. It was the first event of the kind I had ever witnessed, being only a little over five years of age. Yet I realized it was a rather serious affair, and that our sister was about to leave us. Then I created a scene by protesting against her going. To quiet me our sister gave me her prized gold pencil holder. That had a soothing effect on me for a few minutes, but when I saw she and her husband boarding the buggy to leave I threw the pencil holder to the wind and rushed after them. At the point our father took a hand and finally quieted me, but I never forgot the incident and many times in after life my sister took great delight in telling the story on me.

The departure from home of our sister was a sad



May T. McConnell.  
(Madge's) Mother

blow to us three boys, with whom she was a great favorite. She always made much over us, and I had a special place of affection in her heart as I was the youngest of the family. When the couple went to El Dara to reside, I soon followed for a visit, but a few days away from home was enough for me and I became homesick. I found a ride home on a load of corn a farmer was bringing to town.

The McConnells did not long remain in El Dara, and returned to Barry to make their home in a dwelling owned by her father, situated on Lot 5 and 6, Block 10. Mr. McConnell took a position as blacksmith for James Yancy, and remained there about four years.

On Dec. 1, 1863, May T. McConnell, daughter, was born to them; John W. McConnell, son, came to the home May 2, 1867, and Lottie Belle McConnell, daughter, was born Dec. 11, 1872. May T. became the wife of D. A. Sellers, and to this union were born three daughters--Margaret W. Sellers, Jessie Sellers, and Eulalie Sellers. Margaret was born Nov. 2, 1888; Jessie was born Dec. 31, 1891, and Eulalie was born Feb. 4, 1893. & Aug. 22, 1955

Mrs. May T. Sellers died at the family home at Urbana, Ill., Feb. 10, 1915, and her remains were brought to Barry for interment in the city cemetery. Of the daughters, Margaret W. and Eulalie became graduate nurses and joined the Red Cross corps during the World War, Margaret being employed in a New York base hospital and Eulalie being transferred to hospitals in France. Both are now employed in nursing at one of the large hospitals at Cleveland, Ohio. Jessie married Jess Keller of Table Grove, Ill., and she conducted a millinery store for a time at that place; now the couple reside at Portland, Oregon.

John W. McConnell was married to Miss Minnie Peck, daughter of Wm. A. and Jessie Peck, of Barry, Oct. 4, 1893. They have one son, Russell, born at Barry, Sept. 1, 1894. He was married to a young lady of Denver, Colo., but they did not get along well and separated. He was again married recently to a Jacksonville, Ill., lady, and they now reside at Quincy, Ill. John W. McConnell learned to painter and decorat-

8 10-18-1936

ing trade and worked at that business until 1906, when I secured a position for him as instructor in painting at the Illinois school for the deaf, which he held until 1926, when he was transferred to the Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Home at Quincy, to a better position known as master mechanic. He has made quite a success of his new work, and is pleased with his position. The family reside at the state institution. There has recently been a change in state administration, and it is uncertain what effect this will have on the fortunes of Mr. John E., as he happened to be on the wrong side in the Republican factional campaign. The new governor is a good friend of mine and I have hopes of being able to render him some assistance in the way of political endorsements.

Lottie Belle McConnell was not strong and only lived to be thirteen months old.

John W. McConnell & 9/5/1932 at Jacksonville  
Twin " - 11/5/1934 at Quincy

At the end of his term at the Jas. Yancy shop, Mr. McConnell again took a position at the Parlan and Orendorf plow factory at Canton, Ill. Things there were not so pleasant as he expected, and he moved the family from that place to Quincy, where they remained a short time and returned to Barry to live. From that time until the deaths of both Mr. and Mrs. McConnell were permanent residents of our city.

Mr. McConnell entered into partnership with J. S. Phenneger and they opened a blacksmith and wood working shop on Lot 4, Block 34, in Barry. This was after the civil war, and the firm only remained together a few years and dissolved, each partner engaging in the same business for himself. McConnell held the old stand until he retired a few years before he died.

On Feb. 12, 1912, the members of the Baptist congregation gave a reception in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. McConnell's wedding. It was held at the church, and was an event worthy



**John W. McConnell.**

note. A large company of relatives and friends were present to honor the couple.

Mr. McConnell died Feb. 18, 1918, at the age of 80 years. Mrs. McConnell followed in death Sept. 12, 1924. During their long residence in Barry they enjoyed the respect and esteem of the citizens generally, and their passing was the cause of universal regret.

Mr. McConnell was prominent in his day, having been mayor of the city, alderman, chief of the fire department, etc. He was a member of several branches of Masonry, where he took much interest in his younger days and held several different offices. He also belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America and some other societies. Both were greatly interested in religious affairs and held responsible offices in the Baptist church, where they were faithful attendants so long as they were physically able. Mr. McConnell was for years a trustee of the church, and Mrs. McConnell taught a class in the Sunday school for many years. Both also took interest in public affairs. At one time she was an active worker in the Womans Relief Corp, and in the Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Bunyan McConnell d 2/18/1918 at 80

Mollie McConnell d 9/12/1924 at 87



Dr. T. M. Watson and Family.

alice

Helena



1874

Dr. Thomas Watson

## DR. THOMAS MATTHEWS WATSON.

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For nearly half a century Dr. Thomas Matthews Watson occupied any enviable position in and about the city of Griggsville, Ill. That community came to respect and honor him as they have few citizens of the section. During the period of his residence there he was elevated to the office of mayor of the city and for a few terms he filled the position of alderman. For thirty-seven or more years he was secretary of the board of education. He was also a member of the directorate of the public library for many years. After he passed away the citizens continued to honor him by naming the city park after him.

Dr. Watson had a natural inclination toward educational pursuits. He was a natural student, capable and thorough. From his start in the Barry public schools his advancement was rapid and regular, and in less time than is usually allotted to students he mastered the courses of study prepared for the local schools. There were no graduation exercises in those days and no high school in the common acceptance of that title. Barry did have a higher grade and from this grade, when completed, he was considered prepared to teach school. He was offered and accepted a country school to teach in the Stockland district, near Pleasant Hill, Pike County. There he taught one fall and winter.

Following his experience in the country school, Dr. Watson entered Lombard University at Galesburg, Ill., and completed the regular courses of that institution, graduating with honors at the close of his final term. His next step in an educational way was to accept a position as assistant to Prof. Pliny Harris, superintendent of the Barry schools. That was about 1870. He successfully closed that engagement and then decided that he preferred to take up the study of medicine, rather than continue in the ed-

ucational line. On the recommendation of our neighbor, Dr. G. W. Doyle, he entered the Electric Medical Institute at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he graduated with the class of 1874.

Soon after Dr. Watson's return from Cincinnati he took for himself a helpmeet in the person of Miss Helena Terry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Terry, also of Barry. The wedding took place May 19, 1874. The bride was also well educated, being a graduate of the college at Greenville, Ill., and she had been an instructor in Barry public schools and taught one or two terms in the country. Her ancestors were old and respected residents of this section. Dr. Watson and wife traveled life's highway together for nearly fifty years and enjoyed most pleasant family relations.

The next thing for the young doctor after taking unto himself a wife was to find a place in which to practice his profession. He chose Griggsville, as it was considered a good location as there was a shortage of physicians there and those that were in the practice were becoming aged and would soon be ready to retire. Consequently, the young physician and his bride established their home in Griggsville, and he entered upon his professional duties. As with most young doctors his practice came very slowly, but it was steady.

Soon after Dr. Watson and wife located in their adopted city they found a residence that appealed to them as a desirable residence property, and he induced his mother to purchase it for them. They had scarcely moved into the dwelling when a man who had held an execution against the former owner of the property, brought suit against our mother and tried to take the place from her. His case was based on a technicality in the title, and it led to a long legal battle and an expensive one, but mother was game and defended her investment with great courage. She had for her attorney James S. Irwin, who was at that day a leading lawyer of Pike County, and he carried the case to a successful conclusion in the state's highest court. Dr. Watson and family had the privilege



Alice Pearl Watson.  
Perle

of occupying the residence all during their long residence in that city. He bought the property several years before he died, and it still belongs to the estate.

Dr. Watson had a very pleasant personality and in his profession, before treating his patients he gave them a thorough diagnosis to make sure of their ailments. These painstaking methods, together with his known skill and learning, stood him well in hand and he became a very successful practitioner. A patient once treated was ever after one of his good patients, when ill.

Two daughters were born to this Watson family, Alice Pearl and Helena, both of whom received fine educations and grew to beautiful and refined women. Before settling down to life occupations these daughters had the supreme pleasure of visiting the scenes of their great grand parents life in Paisley, Scotland, but to their regret they were not able to see any of the relatives of the American branch of the Watson family, as they had all passed away years before without ever having seen any of our family.

Alice Pearl Watson was married to Frank S. Sherman of Oak Park, Ill., where she taught school in a department of the high school. To these parents were born two children, Thomas Watson Sherman, aged 20, and Elizabeth Sherman, aged 17. Mrs. Sherman passed away at Oak Park, June 6, 1922, and her husband died Jan. 15, 1929, from a building that was destroyed by gas explosion at Terre Haute, Ind., falling on him. Both husband and wife lie peacefully in the cemetery at Oak Park.

Helena Watson, after graduating from college, took up the profession of domestic science teacher, and she made quite a success of it. Later she married Harvey Freeland, a young educator of Minneapolis. The couple lived in that city for a time, then moved to Des Moines, Ia., where Mr. Freeland associated himself with the state educational bureau. Some years later he received an opportunity for promotion in his chosen field, and accepted a position with the Nebraska

state bureau at Lincoln, where the family now reside. No children were born to them, but out of the world of babies they chose little red haired Philip to be their own. He is now a charming lad of eight, their pride and comfort. The family have emerged from illness that promised to overtake them and are now in the enjoyment of their wonted health.

Dr. Watson and his wife were both natives of Barry Ill., the first named was born Nov. 25, 1851, and his wife was born Feb. 22, 1853. He died at Griggsville on March 18, 1923. This caused a breaking up of the family, and soon after her husband's death, the widow went to Lincoln to live with the Freeland family. Sometime before leaving Griggsville, Mrs. Watson had the misfortune to lose her eyesight, which was a sad affliction to her.

On Sunday morning, Feb. 17, 1929, Mrs. Watson passed away, after a very brief illness, supposed to be a stroke of paralysis. The funeral was held at her home in Griggsville, Feb. 19, 1929, and the remains were laid beside her husband in the city cemetery. Myself and wife, with other relatives of the family joined the funeral party at Barry and were present at the services, which were also attended by many neighbors of the family.

That Dr. Watson was a vital factor in the upbuilding of his adopted city can be vouched for by the citizens of that place. He advocated and contributed as far as his means would permit every movement for the good of that community. He was a man of strong convictions on public affairs, morally, spiritually, socially and civically, and he had the courage of his convictions. When it became necessary he never failed to announce his opinions on all such matters.

For many years Dr. Watson was a leading member and official of the Congregational church and Sunday school, of which he was superintendent. In the way of societies, he belonged to the Masonic lodge, of which he was at one time Worshipful Master, and held other offices; was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Pike County Life Association.



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**Helena Watson.**

In his youth he was interested in hunting and fishing and spent considerable of his leisure time in those diversions. He also found pleasure in the old swimming hole at old Hadley creek, where he put in some time in the summer time. He was not given to boyish pranks like many youth indulge in, but was always considerate of other people and of the value of their property. He took no hand in affairs of a destructive nature, such as is sometimes the case on the evening of Oct. 31st, or Hallow'een night.

In many households of Griggsville he was a welcome visitor in times of sickness. His gentle ways and tender sympathy for the afflicted won him many loving remembrances.

Never very strong, Dr. Watson over taxed his energies beyond endurance in the closing days of his life. Fatigue and exhaustion and the inroads of disease attacked him when he was illly able to resist them. The beloved doctor made his last visit, and he quietly passed away, mourned by the populace. He now lies in peace in the Griggsville cemetery.

The gentleman whom Dr. Watson was named for was Rev. Thomas Matthews, a distinguished divine of Paisley, who was a good friend to the older members of the family. Rev. Matthews never had the pleasure of seeing his namesake, but it is safe to say he was not at all discredited by him.



John B. Watson, Earl Watson,  
Baby Gwendolyn.



JON BEGG WATSON.

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Jon Begg Watson, second son of Jon and Agness Begg Watson, was born at Barry, Illinois, Dec. 19 1853. He was educated in the public schools of his home town and took turns in his younger days with his brothers in clerking at odd times in his mother's store. After completing the courses in his home schools he entered Lombard University at Galesburg, Ill. There he made creditable marks and graduated from that institution in due course of time.

Merchandising was favored by Jon B. and he determined to accept it as an occupation. In 1879 our mother, who was frail, was not further able to continue the business so she turned the stock over to him. Jon B. moved the stock to the room across the street to a room owned by the family and started a business for himself.

A year or two later Jon B. thought he saw a better opening for a store at New Salem, Ill., and to that place he moved the stock and opened up for business. Besides the mercantile business he got to be postmaster of the town, having been appointed to the office by President Benjamin Harrison in 1881. The store at New Salem was continued until the year 1893, when the stock of goods, store building and home was traded to Joshua Dunham for his eighty acre farm, located near that town. Then Jon B. sold the farm and removed to Barry.

A few months before locating at New Salem, Jon B. joined in marriage with Parmelia A. Hall, daughter of John H. Hall and wife of Barry. One son was born to them, Earle W. Watson. In after years this son graduated from the Barry high school, and then entered Lombard University and graduated with honors, thus following in the footsteps of his father and his uncle Thomas before him.

It was in the latter part of 1893 that Jon B. and his family returned to Barry to reside.

Before leaving New Salem a contract had been entered into between Jon B. and the Firm of Hollembeak & Hurt, hardware dealers of Barry for the purchase of their business. As soon as he could find a residence to move into he moved here, and closed the deal for the business contracted for. I became a partner with Jon B. in that purchase, as he did not consider that he had means enough to swing the business alone. We each invested \$2,000 in it. My name was not known in the deal; the new firm was simply known as "J. B. Watson." The location of the store was in the two story brick building owned by A. C. Hollembeak & Son, situated at the corner of Lot 4, Block 23, in Barry.

The new venture had been going only about six months when, before it was hardly established, the great conflagration that laid waste so many of the business houses of Barry took place, March 30, 1894. Our store went with the rest of the destroyed. That part of the stock that was salvaged, which was comparatively small, was taken to temporary quarters in a room in a frame building on the north side of the square, where space was shared with the salvaged stock of John H. Malley & Co., another victim of the flames. The Hollembeak's at once began a new building on the old location for us, and as soon as the fire loss was adjusted we began stocking up again. It was only a few months before the building was ready for occupancy and "J. B. Watson" was again in regular business.

After occupying the Hollembeak building for a few years the Mallery building on the opposite corner of the street was purchased by the Odd Fellows lodge of our city and they were anxious for a good and permanent tenant. We looked favorably on the proposition and as the rent seemed fair, we closed a lease with them and moved the stock to that building, where the business was continued until Jon B. died, when the stock was sold to McVay & Nations.

About the same time the hardware business was opened in the new location, Jon B. bought a lot and started to build a new residence in the south-



Mrs. Earl Watson and Baby.

east part of town. He had been a renter for years and had a desire for a home of his own. The dwelling built was a very nice frame one. The family was happily located there, but it was not long before a sad affliction befell the household. The wife and mother sickened and died. The blow to the father and son was staggering, and they were a long time getting over it. The fine residence was there, but the home was broken.

To re-establish the home for himself and his father, the son, Earle W. decided the best thing for him to do was to ask of Miss Jessie Walker of Galesburg Ill., who had been a classmate at college and to whom he was engaged, that they consummate the wedding as soon as she could arrange for the event. The young lady realized the situation and consented. The wedding took place at the home of the bride in Galesburg, April 9, 1902. The young bride came into the family a perfect stranger to nearly all of us. She was of a jovial and happy disposition and was a beautiful and admirable acting lady. The relatives all admired her from the start and did everything they could to make her feel that she had come among her friends. This was especially true of Mrs. Margaret, her new aunt, who took great interest in her and saw to it she received all the assistance in her household duties that she needed. It was not long before Mrs. Jessie was a great favorite socially and personally with our citizens. She succeeded in establishing a most desirable home for her "men folks" and was one of the most appreciated ladies of our town. Q-11-12-1951

In the course of time two fine daughters arrived in the home of Earle and Jessie. They were named Gwendolyn and Jocelyn. In the mean time Earle had taken a position as traveling representative for the Pittsburgh Steel Company, resigning his position in the local hardware store conducted by his father. It was soon after this the family removed to Houston, Texas, to be nearer the father's work. Then in a few years Earle received another promotion; he was given

210 1/2 Corbin Ave.  
Memphis, Tenn.

the appointment of manager for five southern states for the Steel company. This made another change of residence necessary, and the family moved to Memphis Tenn. That took place several years ago and Earle still holds the position at a handsome salary. He is owner of a splendid home in that city and the family occupies a secure position in the social world of the city. Mrs. Jessie is the same lovable matron as of yore, and the two daughters have grown to beautiful and refined womanhood, in recent years having graduated from a girl's college in Virginia. Last year Gwendolyn became the bride of Dr. G. Graham, a young dentist of Memphis, and they have made a home of their own. It afforded Uncle Will and Aunt Margaret unusual pleasure to spend a week with the family in January, 1921 on our way out to California, and to find them so nicely situated.

On January 3, 1906, Jon B. Watson took for his second wife Miss Fannie B. Robb of Barry. They took possession of the former home in the southeast part of town and were apparently happy and contented until ill health overtook Jon B. The disease increased its hold on him until it was apparent he must seek a change in climate if he was to survive. He had confined himself too close to business for his health.

Jon B. and his wife set out for Colorado for a respite from the cares of business and to restore his health if possible. They remained there only a short time, finding that the hoped for improvement did not appear, and they returned home. Disease continued to work on the husband and they were advised by his physician that a visit to Hot Springs, Ark, was about his only hope of recovery. This journey was undertaken in company with his friend, L. F. Bright, who was also in poor health. The trip was too much for Jon B. and he had hardly arrived at Hot Springs before he was stricken with a fatal attack of Bright's disease. He was removed to a hospital, but his decline was rapid and he passed away March 18, 1914. The son Earle arrived before his father died, but the wife was unable to reach his bedside until a few hours after the sad event had occurred.

The remains of the deceased were brought to Barry on March 22, 1914, and the funeral took place from the M. E. Church, Rev. D. V. Gowdy, pastor and a friend of the deceased, officiating. A great company of neighbors and friends and business associates assembled to pay their last respects to their friend and co-laborer. The interment was with the rites of the Masonic lodge of which he had long been a member, in beautiful Park Lawn Cemetery in our city. Thus was closed the life of a useful and lovable citizen.

Jon Begg Watson was a more important personage in Barry than he realized. His quiet unassuming disposition and his simple honesty and his upright life won for him a place among his fellow men that will not so soon be effaced from their memory. He was a merchant worthy of his calling. His inclination was for the elevation of commercial affairs rather than the accumulation of riches. He carried a large and well selected stock of merchandise, was accommodating to his customers, and his prices were reasonable. He was a good buyer, and wholesale houses sought his trade as his purchases were large and his bills promptly met. In his book keeping he was methodical and his accounts were rarely questioned. Once won, his customers staid with him. His competitors respected his manner of doing business.

In many respects Jon B. was like his father. His character was moulded after the same fashion. Both guarded their reputations very carefully. They were not self advertisers or publicity seekers, but both prided himself on strict adherence to the great principles of brotherly love, truth and charity. Both were expert accountants and both were often sought as mediators in disagreements of neighbors. Their advice was sound, whether in financial, commercial or civic affairs.

Although Jon B. was of a religious turn he never united with any church or religious organization. He attended Sunday school regularly in his youth at the Baptist church, where our sister taught a class and I have no doubt the lessons he there learned had lasting effect on his life, which was at all times exemplary.

Jon B. was interested in fraternal societies and belonged to several, among them three branches of Masonry, Modern Woodman of the America, and others. He filled important positions in Larry Lodge, A. F. and A. M. and in Barry Chapter, #88, R. A. M.

In politics he was a strong believer in the principles of the Republican party, but never sought a political office and never held one so far as I know. He did hold city offices that were elected on the partisan principle, one of these being city treasurer, in which he introduced some needed reforms.

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A few years before Jon B. died we dissolved our partnership. We had accumulated considerable property during the twenty years of association, among other holdings being the store building on the west side of the city park, on part of Lot 3, Block 35, a residence situated on Lot 3, Merchants Square, a warehouse on Lot 3, Block 22, and some other minor property. We had been fortunate in business and Jon B. felt that he would like to take over the business we had established. This was perfectly satisfactory to me and the division was made accordingly, Jon B. taking the hardware stock and the rest of the property falling to me, the exchange being made on equal terms, as it was considered fair to both of us. The property that I received I still own, except the residence, which I sold a few years ago to Max Wike.



William Walcott Watson, Bret Watson,  
William Walcott Watson, Jr.



## WILLIAM WALCOTT WATSON.

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My arrival into the Watson family was on a frosty morning, Feb'y 16, 1857, at the old residence on the "farm" described elsewhere in these notes. I was the youngest member of the household.

All my life has been spent in Barry, Ill., except what short periods I have visited in other places. I have surely grown up with the town, as it were; have seen its progress from a small village to a fair sized progressive town; have smiled at her successes and frowned at her adversities. Barry citizens have been my friends and neighbors, and I have been their friend and associate. The same can be said of my wife during her residence of forty-seven years in the community, and of our son and daughter in the years they have spent here.

I confess I was a genuine town boy, full of life and ready for anything that came along, whether it was a circus, fire, picnic, ball game, political meeting or parade, sleighing party, revival, church social, or what not, I could be counted in.

To say I was raised on the streets would be stating it too strong, probably, but it would not be so greatly overdrawn. I did run at large a good part of the time, as mother was so occupied she could not devote much time to us boys. This gave us a free rein and generally we put in the time outside of school hours as we chose, so it was in respectable manner. Of course we had our hour to be at home of nights.

We lived on the corner lot of Block 23, and were thus handy to the goings on in the business part of town, where most of the important events took place.

As soon as I was old enough I was started to school. The school house was only one block away, at the northeast corner of Merchants Square. It

was handy for us boys to attend school, but it had its drawbacks for us also, as the teachers found it so easy to communicate with our mother in case of our infractions of the school ethics, such as whispering, shooting paper wads at other pupils, playing hookey, etc., any of which called for corrective measures being employed. At such times the teachers would drop around after school closed and consult our mother about it, with the usual result that we boys were "called on the carpet" and perhaps given an additional switching.

Most of my school days were spent in the old building that stood so long on the location above alluded to. The primary room in which I made my entry in the southwest corner of the building, and where the school was conducted by a diminutive little woman named Antoinette Brown, of our town, who was not strong and she had her hands full in restraining the youngsters of my makeup within reasonably decent behavior.

From the primary room I progressed in the ordinary way to the other grade departments. Some of teachers under whose protecting care I fell were Mary Quarrels, Mary Phillips, Sarah Chandler and Jones. When I finally reached the higher grades I under Kate Harvey, Sue Grubb, and WM. Smith's direction. Then I succeeded to the "high room" where Prof. Doty, Prof. Pliney Harris, Prof. J. Chowning, Prof. J. N. Dewell and Prof. J. W. Dewell took me in the departments. Assistants in the high room were Eli Wheelock and my brother, Thomas M. Watson, both of whom were quite successful in looking after us. One of the principals I well remember when I was in the lower grades was Prof. Bruce. He was a very short man, whom the boys nicknamed "duck legs." He had a habit peculiar to himself--that was in the way he used his rawhide whip. Every day at recess time he would ring the bell for the children to close the play and return to school, then he would hustle down to the front door, and to every boy who was not on the dot he would give him a lick with his whip.



Margaret Alice Watson, Bessie M. Watson,  
Roberta Watson.

# ROBERTA WATSON, ARTURO ROBINSON, MARRIED SATURDAY.

502-112

Are Taking Wedding Trip  
Thru South; Will Live In  
Hannibal, Mo.

The culmination of a pretty romance which had its inception on the campus of Hannibal-LaGrange College where the bride and groom were students this year, took place Saturday morning at 10:30 o'clock, when Miss Roberta Palmer Watson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Watson of Barry, became the bride of Mr. Arturo Robinson, son of Mrs. Carlotta Robinson of Valparaiso, Chile, South America. Dr. Andrew F. Morris, president of the college, said the impressive nuptial service in the parlors of the girls' dormitory, in the presence of a gathering of students, members of the faculty, relatives and friends.

The bride was attended by Miss Donetta Six of Barry, Miss Margaret Aloise Bartholomew of Barry, and Miss Georgia Raukohl of Hannibal, while Messrs. J. Dillon Greenlee, Omar Walley and James Conner of Hannibal, and Philip Main of Barry, were grooms-men. The bride's-maids flowers were corsages of roses and the groom and his attendants wore a white gardenia in their coat lapels.

Before the marriage service there was a lovely musical program, with Miss Helen Graves head of the voice department, singing, "Because" by D'Hardelot and Mr. Robert Winkler, a student at the college, singing, "At Dawning" by Charles Wakefield Cadman. They were accompanied by Mr. George Digel, a college student. Mrs. Lois Bartholomew of Barry, played the processional, using Mendelssohn's wedding March.

The lovely young bride was pretty in a yellow boucle sport suit with dark blue accessories and had a corsage of Talisman roses.



certainly seemed to enjoy it, but it was not a popular feature with the boys, and there was no sorrow expressed when he failed to be engaged to teach the next year.

Of the grade teachers Mary Quarrels was an "easy mark" and the boys had their own good times in the school. It was not so with Anna Janes, Sarah Chandler and Mary Poling, all of whom displayed good disciplin and were equal to any emergency that came up. Prof. Doty had lost the sight of one eye and the older boys took advantage of him in many ways, virtually causing him to leave the school in disfavor with the directors, who refused to re-employ him. He was followed by his son-in-law, Prof. Pliney Harris, who straightened the obstreperous boys out in short order after he took charge of the schools. He had a club foot that was an object of comment by the boys and girls and at first the older boys concluded they were in for plenty of amusement at his expense. That all faded away by the time that several of the boys had received a nice dressing with the ruler. He soon had the room under full control.

Prof. Chowning and Prof. J. N. Dewell were both strong on disciplin and ruled their pupils without trouble, but Prof. Jas. W. Dewell was doomed to his share of grief. He was a nervous and erratic person and the students soon took advantage of his disposition. He was nicknamed "waxy" on account of his attempting to drive gum chewing from the school, in which measure he failed.

I was a student in the high school in the new school building, erected in the northwest part of town in 1874, one fall and winter. That was the winter and fall of 1874-5. Prof. C. I. Swan was the superintendent and Prof. R. M. Hitch was the principal. Both of these educators were fine gentlemen and very successful teachers. I have always felt that I received my best term of schooling under them. It was probably the mistake of my life when I failed to re-enter the high school the next term, as I should have done, instead of engaging prematurely in business. My days of learning ended there, before graduating from the high school.

In my young manhood I had a great desire to study law and enter into the practise in the courts of our county. In those days a great many law suits took place in our town, and it was the hight of my ambition to attend these justice court proceedings and listen to the flow of oratory that fell from the lips of our attorneys. Those were the halcyon days of Joseph Klein, Alfred Grubb and John L. Underwood. In after years Jas. W. Johnson, known as the "silvered tongue orator", A. C. Laing, E. D. Tingle, and others held the fort. These to me were all great legal lights. The justice courts were presided over by L. N. Ferris and Chas. S. Allen. The time came to me when I concluded these officials had not the sagacity and learning I thought they had in the years before. I regarded them more in the light of amusement than otherwise.

Of late years the legal business of our section is looked after by Hon. Rollo Six and R. B. Siepke both of whom located in Barry several years ago. Justices we had for many years, J. W. Mitchell, W. and WM. McIntire, who were more or less familiar with the law and were successful. Both are now deceased. Present justices are Lorain Strubinger and Jas. Evans. The law business is not what it was years ago, but there is always something coming up to claim attention. Liquor prosecutions predominate but there are quite a lot of civil suits on their dockets.

Neighborboys with whom I associated were George M. Blair, Than Davis, Dode (Theodore) Callaway, and Cyrus Goodale, all of whom lived within a stones throw of my home. We were all classmates and generally indulged in the same games and amusements. All boys crowds have a leader; George Blair was ours. He was not so much more intelligent or bolder than the rest of us, but there was another reason for his selection. His father was well-to-do as he had a horse and buggy at his command. None of the rest of us had either of these advantages. Blair about a year older than we were and naturally liked to dictate to us what we should and not to do.



Bret B. Watson.



Margaret Agness Watson.

In the summer time our idle time was taken up with swimming, base ball, marble games, fishing, etc. and in the winter we had skating, coasting, and indoor games and sports. We nearly always managed to have something of the kind on hand. In fact we indulged in all kinds of sports as boys will. For our trips to old Hadley creek the horse and buggy came in very handy. Any time old John and the buggy was not available we set out on foot for the creek, and often made two or three trips that way in a day. On the days we had to walk to the swimming hole we nearly always waited until four o'clock for the mail stage, which came along from Quincy about that hour, and if there were no trunks on the rack in the rear we would two or three of us pile on and "play tar bucket" for home. Those were "the days of real sport."

Our youthful days were not always covered with sunshine and pleasure. We had our troubles. Things happened occasionally that sent a shadow across our paths. There were accidental deaths in which our friends were involved, thievery, murders, and various other happenings of a disquieting nature that caused us much uneasiness and sometimes sorrow.

A case that I well remembered was the accidental death of young Walter Hurt, which occurred while the Angle building, now known as the Sessel building, was being constructed, about sixty years ago. The Hurt boy with others was playing about the unfinished structure when he fell from the second story, striking the joists of the lower floor and causing such injuries that he died in a few hours. Walter was about the age of the boys in our set and his death came as a terrible shock to us.

Another incident that I well remember was the excitement caused by an invasion of marauders from Moto to our neighborhood at the breaking out of the civil war. They were vicious men and committed depredations that stirred the community. Stealing horses and cattle from the farmers was bad enough, but they

committed more atrocious crimes than those. One of the worst was the murder of a Mr. Gard, who lived on the bluff road between Kinderhook and New Canton, in Barry Township. The man was leaving his home to call a doctor for his sick wife, when he was shot from his horse, in cold blood. The wrath of the citizens knew no bounds, and posses were organized and scoured the country for the criminal. One Crowe was apprehended and arrested for the crime. He was rushed to Barry for a hearing on the charge of murder. I have a mind picture to this day of David Rippey, the constable, marching Crow down the middle of the street to the old opera house, where the trial took place. Scores of citizens assembled and the scene was threatening and exciting. The wonder was that Crowe was not taken and hung to a tree before he reached town. He was a man of fine physique, tall and dark, with long black hair and a keen penetrating eye. He was said to be a deadly shot with a revolver.

The preliminary hearing was soon disposed of and the man was held for the crime, and was sent to jail for safe keeping until the next term of criminal court. Constable Rippey was a relative of the man that was murdered and he spared no pains in humiliating Crow as much as possible. He finally landed his prisoner in the county jail. That prison was not so safe, after all, and Crowe broke out and escaped from the county. His liberty was of short duration, however, as he was captured in Greene county in a few days. He again made an attempt to escape, but that time he missed it and was shot down by an officer, and his death followed. That relieved the tension in our neighborhood, but the case occupied public attention for many years.

Another case that startled the community was the brutal murder of an oldish man named McCumber. This terrible affair took place in the western part of Barry Township, near what is known as the McCumber spring, just off the old Barry and Kinderhook road. The victim was related to the Likes family by mar-



**BOBBY AND BILLY WATSON**  
Children of Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Watson,  
Barry, Illinois.



Bill

Bobby Watson

riage, and there was a falling out between him and some of the Likes men, which resulted in McCumber being taken bodily to the location named and tied to a tree. The evidence was that the Likes then, at a short distance, stood and pounded him with stones until he was beaten to death. It was a horrible act and was roundly condemned by our citizens. Those in the act were haled into court and tried, but after a protracted session of court only the one who was the least guilty was sent to the penitentiary for a few years and then was liberated. The Likes were freed. Judge Chauncey L. Higbee made a reputation as a criminal lawyer by the case. The community never got over the enormity of the crime and the small punishment meeted out to the guilty ones. The Likes men continued to live in our township and were very respectable after that, but the stigma of the crime clung to them and to their dying days they never were able to live it down. Those conversant with the facts in the case never had much respect for them.



Margaret W. Sellers.



Jessie Sellers.

## OUR FATHER'S PICTURE.

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Our father, Jon Watson, had a peculiarity that is rather uncommon among men in their younger life. He was averse to having his picture taken. When he died there was no picture of him in existence, so far as the family knew. Long years after his death I learned in a strange way that a copy of a painting he had set for in his young manhood was still in existence. This information came from Mrs. Jas. White, a distant relative of ours, who was a resident of Paisley, Scotland, but who at the time I refer to was a visitor in this country. She was a guest in my home one day while visiting in Barry, and at that time gave me more particulars of our father's life than we had ever learned before. He boarded at her home, she said, and of course by that means she had abundant opportunity to know him well.

During our conversation I remarked that we were all so sorry that none of us had a picture of our father. She replied that she had one, the only one she knew of in existence. Then she proceeded to inform me what had set him against setting for pictures.

Our father had at one time visited an artist for the purpose, but was subjected to such a long tedious "sitting" that he was worn out by it and became so disgusted over it that he vowed he was done with the picture business for all time. Mrs. White was satisfied he kept his word and never did have another picture taken.

The picture Mrs. White had, she said, was the one that caused him to get so violently worked up over. I expressed interest at her recital of the circumstances and uttered amazement regarding her picture, that she turned to me and said: "You are

are the youngest member of your family; I will send that picture to you; you should have it." The picture was away across the Atlantic ocean and I was in Barry, Illinois. I accepted her good intentions but dismissed the offer from my mind, as it seemed so probable of ever being fulfilled. To my surprise, a few years later, Mr. L. D. White, a cousin, who resided at Quincy, but who often visited his old residence in Scotland, came to see me and with him was the coveted picture Mrs. Jas. White had promised to send me. The only part of it that I regretted was that the old time frame had been removed from the picture and a modern gilt frame was substituted. It was a nice frame, but the old one would have been much more prized.

To say that we were all delighted expresses the situation but mildly. I had several photographic copies of the picture made and provided each member of the family then living with a copy, which they prized highly. The picture of father that appears on a page of this volume is the copy of the original "last picture". The original picture still has a prominent place on the wall of my home.

In examining the old picture recently I discovered this notation on the back of it: "The likeness of J. Watson was taken July, 1827, who was born 23 Nov. 1805."



Elle Bellens

## OUR MOTHER'S BIBLE.

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If there was anything that was precious to our mother it was her Bible. Few persons are more devoted to the book than she was or more familiar with its contents. Begin any chapter you might and she could repeat word for word the rest of the chapter.

The Bible she received at home in Paisley she brought with her to the United States, and had the misfortune to have it burned in the fire of 1868, when her stove was destroyed. The loss was deeply felt by mother. That Bible was replaced by another one Feb'y 25, 1869, and this book was her solace and comfort all the rest of her life. It was of the edition of 1859, American Bible Society, and was a substantial well bound copy of medium size and very thick. It also showed much use.

This Bible contains a list of favorite scripture selections of hers, and said list is as follows:

Psalms 37:25, 94:12.

Eccel. 7:14, 9:20.

Matt. 5:48, 6:19-21, 11:28-30.

Luke 12: 32. 24:46.

Acts,3:10. Heb.12:6, Rev. 3:19.

The last text selected by mother was Matt.10:22, selected Tuesday morning, Aug. 13, 1895, just three days before she died. The wording of this text is, "He that endureth to the end shall be saved." Another selection written on the cover page is, "Now, Lord, let trouble come, and let thy servant die in peace."

In her own handwriting she wrote this statement: On the front page of the Bible:

"Feb. 24th, 1895. This is Agness Watson's Bible, which she has had and used for a great many years; she has been blessed and comforted with it many days and nightsof severe suffering by its precious promises, and hopes to retain it and use it as long as I live. And now, while I am able to do it, I bequeath it to our daughter, Mrs. Helena Watson, so +

that she will come into full possession of it when I die. In the mean time we will both be in possession of it."

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To the above notations in the Bible I have added the following: This Bible, a legacy, of my mother, was received by me from Mrs. Helena Freeland, of Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 25, 1929. Mrs. Freeland is the daughter of Mrs. Helena Watson, wife of Dr. T. M. Watson. I fully apprediate the kindness and forethought of the daughter in donating the Bible to me on the death of her mother.

WILLIAM WALCOTT WATSON.



W. W. Watson and Master Bret.



Margaret Watson in Wisconsin  
1921-24

## WHY THE CHANGE IN NAME SPELLING.

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I presume the reader has some curiosity as to the reason why our father, Jon Watson, and our brother Jon B. Watson, changed the spelling of their surnames from John to Jon. It came about in this way. Jon P. Grubb, Jon Shastid and Jon Watson were very intimate friends of the fifties. They often met socially and spent many pleasant hours together. Mr. Grubb was then connected with the old woolen mills that operated near our city, on the northwest; Mr. Shastid and my father were at that time school teachers. They were all named John. At one of their meetings it was proposed that they reform the spelling of the name John by cutting out the letter "h" as superfluous, leaving the spelling simply Jon. The suggestion was no sooner made than accepted by the three, and ever afterward they used the abbreviated form. Our brother Jon followed the lead of his father and did the same thing in the way of spelling his name. The new way of spelling led to many errors in the names of these men by others, especially in legal papers, such as deeds, etc., but they never went back to the original style.



W. W. Watson. 1881



1881

## THE WATSON FAMILY LIFE.

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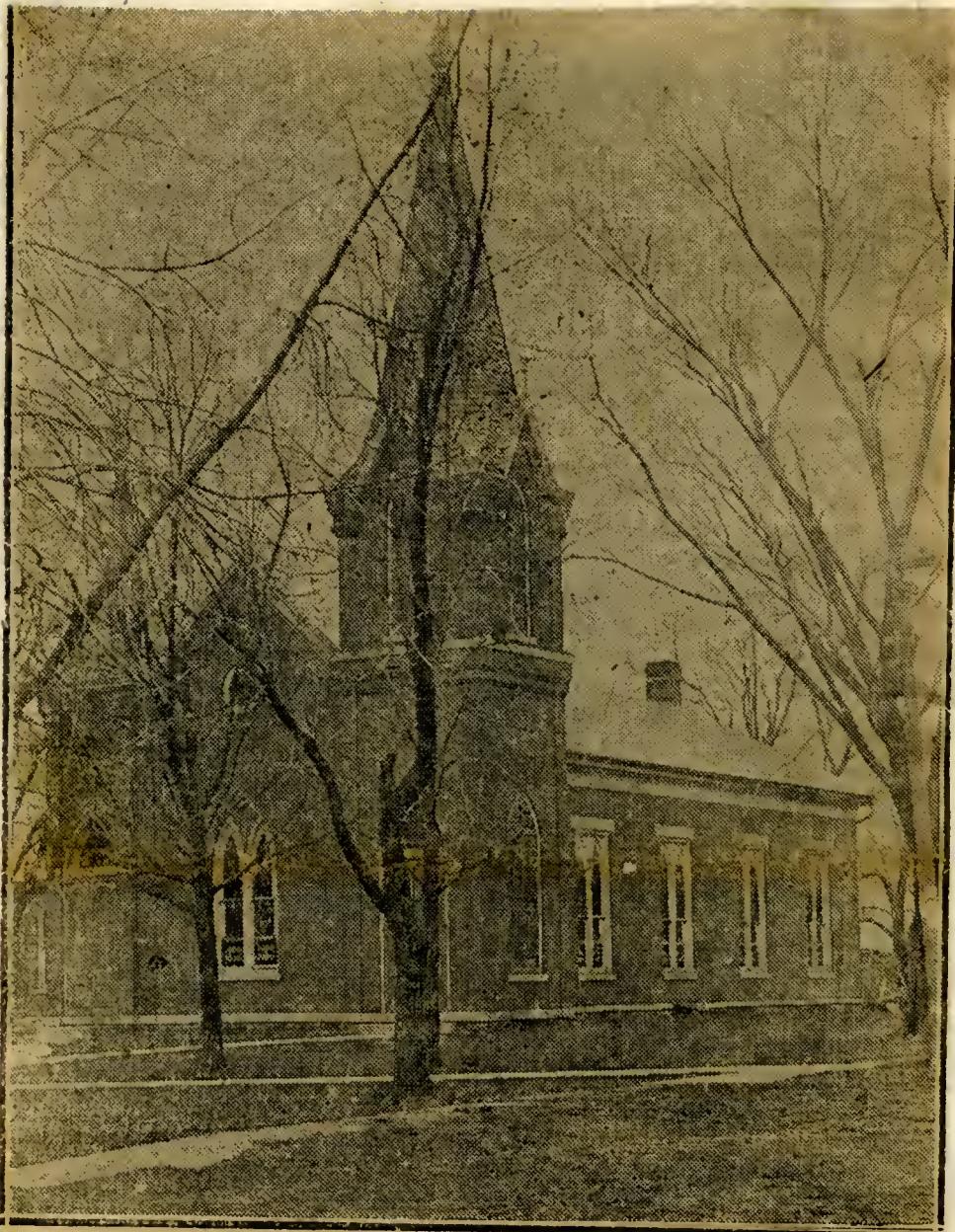
The family life of our parents' family was altogether agreeable. There was little quarreling among the boys, and no jars of consequence of any kind as I remember it. We all had certain duties to perform and mother saw to it that we attended to them when she was in charge. Of course we took advantage of the hired girl occasionally when she looked after us but inmost cases even she could straighten us out, when necessary. So long as our father was with us he saw to it we obeyed orders promptly, but after his departure it took our mother some time to grasp the situation. She finally learned how to control the family in good shape. Our sister about that time had married and left us, so she did not come in for her share of looking after. She required plenty of attention in her younger years, we were told.

Some of our duties were washing and wiping the dishes after meals and making up our beds of a morning. These were regular occupations for me, and in fact this education lasted me all through my life. It became second nature to me. I had another chore about house-cleaning time. That was keeping my straw bed tick filled with straw, and "strapping" my bed, which was done by placing a small rope cross ways, back and forth like a checker board, for bed springs. Such chores are no doubt new to children of to-day, but I could always count on them in the spring and fall at house-cleaning time. Another fine task was to stretch and tack down the carpets. We don't hear of that any more.

Any infraction of social or school life that we indulged in, such as visiting water melon patches or apple or peach orchards unannounced, or inciting dog fights or boy fights, playing hookey or pelting school mates with paper wads, always got to mother promptly. It seemed to us that school teachers put in extra time inquiring if "Tommy or Jonnie or Willie were sick as they had not been to school that afternoon." With three of us there were always some-

thing of the kind coming up to bother us. After each case we were careful to be good for a few days.

About the only thing I could successfully work without mother knowing it was slipping out bread and butter to the man that rendered lard for the C. & S. Davis packing house, which was located right back of our home on the same block. The lard render was generally "Uncle" Andy Booth, a good old soul but very peculiar. I had a stand in with him and had free access to his department. He often had to work after hours to catch up his work, and then it was I could visit him without encountering other workmen. My deal with him was that I was to supply the bread and butter and he to furnish the tender loin pork..I could also have fresh cracklins also if I cared to, which I usually longed for. The way the pork was cooked was to attach it to a string and put it in the lard tank in the hot lard. I never ate anything better. We used to have great feasts that way. Mother never knew what became of her bread and butter until I informed her long years after, when it was too late to remedy matters.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

## RELIGION IN THE FAMILY.

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In a religious way our father and mother maintained the traditions of the family. They were regular attendants at church and followed the precepts and example of the "meek and lowly one" in their various walks of life. Our father, while raised a Presbyterian, after coming to Barry joined the Christian church and was named a deacon. Mother inherited the same faith, and when she became one of our citizens, went with her husband to his church. Both were very exemplary and true to their professions. After the death of our father, mother united with a small band of citizens, mostly Scotch, in the Seventh Day Adventist religion, and affiliated with that organization for many years. Her life was always worthy of emulation.

Mary Ann Jessie Watson, who afterward became the wife of Eunyan McConnell, was a good example of righteous living, as was also her husband. As members of the Baptist church they were faithful and true to their obligations, and assisted in the Sunday school, Mrs. McConnell teaching a class for many years or until she became physically unable to do so.

Thomas M. Watson and wife were both members of the Congregational church at Griggsville, who lived their religion daily without ostentation and outward display. He was superintendent of the Sunday school for some time.

Jon B. Watson, while making no pretensions as to a christian attitude, and never joined a church, was nevertheless of a most religious nature and ever lived an upright and conscientious course.

Another example of the care and precision of her heredity and training is that of Mrs. Margaret Alice Watson, daughter of Henry and Amelia Bonnell, late of Griggsville, Ill. She grew up under the teachings

of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as understood and practiced by her parents, who were of the most devout and ardent members. She was one of the fairest and best examples and ever lived the life of a true christian. She recognized that her place was in the church and Sunday school and has ever been found doing her full duty. Since making Barry her home she has engaged in all the activities conducted in the interest of the church, and has been a faithful member also of the Womans Home Missionary Society and The Ladies Social Union. For twenty-four years she has been at the head of the primary department of the Sunday school and what a magnificent work she has done. Her whole heart is in the work, and she looks after it to the exclusion of everything else. Any time she can be of assistance to the church or Sunday school, she responds without urging or quibbling. And she has endeavored to bring up her family in the same christian-like manner.

As for myself, I must confess my religious ardor was checked early in life, and the "Queen of the household" did not receive the assistance from me that she deserved. I was brought up strictly enough and felt the proper influences; was a regular attendant, first at the Congregational and then at the Baptist Sunday schools, and was present at divine worship regularly Sunday after Sunday in my youth, but became careless when compelled to listen to droll talks by local advocates of my mother's religious belief. It was wearing on my nerves and for several years I resented it.

After our marriage I made it a practice to accompany my wife to church, and acting under the influence of Rev. D. V. Gowdy, pastor of the Methodist church at that time--1914--I united with that church at one of the pastor's evangelistic meetings. Since then I have endeavored to assist in all ways all affairs that tend to help the cause.

When Rev. H. H. Waltmire, in 1923 started a movement to procure a new church building to supplant the old and out of date church, I took an active part in



Methodist Episcopal Church, Barry, Ill.

1923

the movement and helped in every way I could to make it a success. I was named on the soliciting committee and did quite a little of that work; then aided in closing the contract for the construction of the edifice, and put in several months inspecting the work as it progressed to see that the society received full value for its investment. My cash contribution to the cause was \$2,000, and in addition to this Mrs. Watson contributed liberally on her own account. The result is a fine church now adorns the prominent corner so long used for the old structure. The total cost of the church was \$40,000. It was completed in January, 1924, and was formally dedicated on Feb. 12 of the same year. To-day it stands as a monument to the zeal and fidelity of the devoted membership. I have always felt well compensated for my part of the movement.

## OUR COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.

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The acquaintance of William Walcott Watson and Margaret Alice Bonnell was formed at a party held one evening during the Christmas holiday season in 1879. The social function took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Smith. Mrs. Smith was a sister of Miss Bonnell.

The young couple were together at a game table, and while it was not a case of "love at first sight" there is no denying they were attracted to each other. They went together a few times during the winter, and the young man was an occasional visitor at the home of the young lady in Griggsville. She was a student in the high school there at that time and graduated at the end of the school term, in May, 1880. The young admirer was there to congratulate his lady friend on her educational advancement and to present her with a conventional bouquet.

The following year Miss Bonnell spent much of her time at the home of her sister in Barry, and the couple managed to meet often. Buggy riding was a favorite pastime with them. It was also in favor with another couple, John T. Orr and Miss Marie Long, and the four found much pleasure in driving out together with a team from the town livery stable.

The friendship between Mr. Watson and Miss Bonnell ripened into affection. On a bright moonlight evening July 10, 1881, on the Smith lawn they plighted their vows. The wedding took place Dec. 28, 1881, at the home of the bride in Griggsville, Rev. J. A. Kummer of the M. E. church of that place performing the ceremony. The event was not an elaborate one; just a neat homelike affair such as you would expect from two such young people. Guests present were limited to relatives of the family and a few close friends. From Barry were: Eugene Smith and wife, B. McConnell and wife and son, J. W. McConnell, John T. Orr and wife, and Harry Hollembeak. From New Salem, Jon B. Watson

and wife, and from Griggsville, Dr. T. M. Watson and wife, Dr. W. W. Bonnell, wife, and daughter Lizzie, Albert Bonnell and wife, and others.

Within a few days after the wedding the bride and groom settled down to housekeeping in their own home which had been made ready for them by the groom in anticipation of the approaching event. The home established was on Lot 1, Block 23, in Barry. We were nicely situated and happy. We liked company and had the pleasure of entertaining many of our relatives and friends. This custom has been maintained all during our married life. Our home has virtually been an open house to Methodist preachers and their families. Mrs. Watson came of a family of that faith and two of her brothers, Thomas and Joseph G. Bonnell, were Methodist preachers, so it was natural for her to seek association of church people. I also contracted the habit and enjoyed it.

Our guests were not confined to church people, however, but extended into politics, Masonry, the lecture field, society, etc. We have always been partial to our friends in all the walks of life, and find enjoyment in their company. Some of our distinguished guests have been: Gov. Frank O. Lowden, Gov. Richard Yates, now congressman at large, Bishop Nicholson, Dr. Roy F. Smith, lecturer, Dr. Holland, lecturer, Hon. A. C. Mathews, Judge Harry Higbee, Postmaster C. A. Wilcox, Dist. Supts. Horace Reed and Robert Stevens, Hon. Geo. H. Wilson, Hon. H. D. L. Grigsby, and a host of others.

We are the parents of two children--Bret B. Watson and Margaret Agness Watson. Bret B. was born at Barry on Christmas day, 1883. He had the benefit of a good high school education, and developed into a young man of splendid habits and excellent standing in his community. He is now and has been for years the efficient secretary of Barry Chautauqua, secretary and member of the board of education, city clerk, and is a good writer and holds the position of correspondent of several daily newspapers.

On May 26, 1914, Bret B. took to himself a life



Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Watson and Baby Bret.



40.00 Wedding Anniversary

Dec. 21, 1922.

companion in the person of Miss Bessie Palmer of Henrietta, Texas. To them were born two bright children, William Walcott Watson, Jr. and Roberta Palmer Watson. William Walcott, Jr. is much given to mechanical ideas, but finds enjoyment in fishing, basket ball playing, swimming, and other pastimes. At the same time he is studious and quick to learn. He stands well in his school studies. Roberta Watson takes life easy and is ready for anything that comes along in the way of pleasure or play. She also stands well in her classes, and is punctual in school attendance. In music she is quite efficient, and enjoys trips to the cities. In fact she is ready whenever the auto goes.

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Margaret Agness Watson is a Barry maiden who has seen pleasant days so far in life. She was born in Barry, March 1, 1899. After completing the courses in the grades and graduating from the high school of her native town, she entered Illinois Womans College at Jacksonville, Ill., for the four years course, she graduated from that institution in the class of 1921. The same fall she accepted a position as instructor in the Albany, Wis., high school, which she held with credit for three years. At the end of that time, 1925, she was offered, unsolicited, a place in the faculty of the Jacksonville, Ill., high school, accepted the position and is now on her fourth year in that capacity. She had the reputation of being a well trained and capable instructor and has so far in her chosen work always given entire satisfaction. Margaret is of an independent nature and prefers to earn her living to being dependent upon others. She has been quite a traveler during her vacations, and she finds the education thus obtained as applicable to her school work. She is also quite proficient in music.

Some seven years ago Margaret met with a very severe accident that might have cost her life. With a party of young people she was coming home from a visit at Griggsville, and the auto was struck by a Wabash freight train about four miles east of Barry. Mar-

garet received a bad scalp wound and other injuries that confined her to Blessing Hospital at Quincy for a few weeks, but she finally got over her injuries and has since been well, except for a time when she was troubled with an attack of appendicitis and was again confined at the hospital after an operation for that trouble. She is now in good condition and is able to attend to her school duties.

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Mrs. Watson and myself had the extreme gratification of celebrating our fortieth wedding anniversary Dec. 28, 1921. Members of our family and a few friends and relatives were guests at a dinner party, which was a very enjoyable one. Our golden wedding is not far away and we hope to observe that event also.

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There are few of us who do not have reverses of some kind during a life time. Ours came on March 30, 1894, when our home and its contents were destroyed, together with my printing office and contents, in the great conflagration that overtook our city. We virtually had to start over again in our homelife and business experiences. I soon had a new building for the printing office and a new outfit, and the next day after the fire I bought from H. H. Thompson Lot 3, in Block 25, in Barry, and that fall erected a new residence. It was completed and ready for occupancy in October, 1894, and we at once moved in. It is still our place of abode and we are very much in love with it.

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As we look back over our years of association we conclude we have much to be thankful for. I have been especially blessed with good health, and now it would be nothing strange if I should be subject to some of the infirmities of persons of my years.

Mrs. Watson has not been so fortunate and for years she experienced ill health of more or less severity. We are happy that of late her physical condition has materially improved, and her wonted jovial disposition has in good measure returned. Probably no couple enjoy good health more than we, and we hope it will continue to the end. We have hosts of good and true friends whose company we enjoy, and they have contributed immensely to our pleasures.

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A son, their first child, was born Sunday in a Springfield hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Cooke of that city. The baby weighed 7 pounds at birth. Mrs. Cooke before her marriage some years ago, was Miss Margaret Watson of Barry, only daughter of Mrs. W. W. Watson.

*Donald Watson.*  
Mrs. John S. Lampert, Ohio

11-24-1935



William Brown, Sr.  
1888

## THE SCOTCH GROUP.

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There was a time when Barry had quite a number of Scotch residents within her borders. They began locating here about 1842. Nearly all the men were tradesmen in the old country, but in America they took up other occupations, as a rule. Some of the men brought wives and families with them. Families represented were the Nicols, Whites, Holmes, Carswell, Watsons and Hamiltons, nearly all of whom had several descendants.

The senior members of the Nicol family were Mathew and Michael and their wives. The two brothers came from the Highlands of Scotland and were shepherds of sheep in that country. Mathew engaged in basket making and gardening for a living after arriving here and Michael settled on a farm a few miles southeast of town. Mathew had a son and daughter, and Michael had four sons and three daughters. The children of both parents reached their majorities and resided in the neighborhood for several years, but some of them moved to the western country.

Thomas and Esther White were married in the old country, and brought their children here with them. They located on a farm near town. Of the family were seven sons and one daughter. The sons were Louis D. Thomas, John W., Alexander, Wm. F., Arch and George. The daughter was Esther, who married Wm. Nicol. All these or at least most of them reared families. L. D. engaged in the hardware and tinner business, and later located at Quincy; Thomas conducted a stove foundry at Quincy; Alexander was a book binder, and engaged in merchandising with his brother Wm. F., who was a carpenter in his native land; John W. was a cooper and had a shop here. Nearly all of these married ladies of their own nationality.

The Hamilton family was represented by Alex and John, the former being a tailor, and the latter fol-

lowing the carpenter trade, later taking up farming. Both married after arriving here. Alex, chose a sister of Mrs. Alex. White for a companion, and John chose Annie E. Shaw, daughter of an old family of Pike county for his helpmeet.

Jon Watson and Agness Begg Watson were the parents of three sons, Thomas M., Jon B. and Wm. W., while Mary Ann Jessie was a daughter by a former marriage. Both parents taught school on arrival in this country, and afterward conducted a store. Of the sons, Thomas M., became a physician and located at Griggsville, Jon B. engaged in merchandising at Barry and New Salem, and William W., conducted a Barry newspaper. Mary Ann Jessie married Bunyan McConnell, Thos. M. married Helena Terry, Jon. B. married Permelia Hall for his first wife and at her death took for a helpmeet Fannie B. Robb, William married Margaret Alice Bonnell of Griggsville. All of the Watsons have descendants.

James Holmes was a tradesman and married Elizabeth Wilson of Scotland. Their children were Jessie, Mary, Chas. M. and Elizabeth. Jessie married Wm. A. Peck and raised a large family; Mary married Jas. McTucker; Chas. M. married Nettie Barney and is still engaged in the blacksmith business in Barry; Elizabeth married J. H. Hall, and raised a family in our city. James Holmes was a volunteer in the civil war and served with credit. He was appointed postmaster of Barry soon after the close of the war.

John Carswell married Sarah Wilson in his native land. They had several daughters, of whom Sarah was married to Theo. Doran; Katie is unmarried; Maggie married Mr. Deane; Ray married Geo. Lewis, and Len married Harry Hutchinson. There was also an afflicted daughter named Eliza. Sarah is dead; Ray and Len are widows, and Maggie lives with her husband in Texas. John Carswell was a tailor and also conducted a confectionery store here.

With the exception of the Nicol and Hamilton families all of the others were related to our family. Mrs. Esther White was a sister of our father, and Mrs. Jas. Holmes, Mrs. John White and Mrs. John Carswell were his nieces.



Mrs. William Brown, Sr.

Of the group mentioned all the older members have passed away. They were quite ~~and~~ addition to Barry both socially and commercially, in their day. They were frugal and industrious, and altogether good and useful citizens. Like most groups of foreigners they found most pleasure in their own society and with their own kind, until they were well settled and acquainted. Some of them did quite a little in social entertainments. Mathew Nicol was a bagpiper and brought this instrument with him when he came. He delighted to entertain crowds at the country school houses and at parties in town. I was not especially fond of his music, but there was a novelty to it that appealed to most people. Wm. F. White had dramatic talent and took great pride in displaying it, especially at social events. His specialty was Dickens characters. In the social entertainments he attended there were nearly always persistent calls for his rendition of sketches, and he could always be relied on to respond. He was always a feature of the Masonic socials, which used to be annual events of prominence.

The Scots were noted for their observance of their holidays, the principal one of which was Hallow'een night. Oct. 31st was always celebrated, as also was Bobby Burns birthday. They had their own kind of amusements. One of the principal ones was the antics employed Hallow'een night, when the children would assemble around a tub of water that contained a supply of small apples. The amusement was to dip their head into the water and catch the apples in their mouth. It was not easily performed, and the successful ones were rewarded for their skill. Merriment followed these efforts. The children had a lively time on these occasions and the grown people enjoyed them with the children.

Our family have the most kindly recollection of our cousin Kate White, who devoted time to nursing, and did much good in that way in the community. We have always given her credit for saving the life of our son who was ill with lung fever and nearly died and would but for her efforts.

Another attribute of Mrs. John White and her husband was their religious proclivities. They were certainly profoundly religious, and belonged to the group my mother affiliated with. They never varied from the course mapped out during their entire lives. Often when boys we visited their home and talked over their old time Scotch experiences, to our pleasure. They were sure to refer to their religious views some time during their conversations. One expression they used so often was impressed indelibly upon our minds; that was about "wars and rumors of wars" in which they were confident that some time soon all the world would be engaged. How true that came about in 1914, when the world war broke out. I often think of it.



Mrs. Bella Baker. - cousin

## OUR VISITS TO QUINCY.

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In our boyhood days a trip to Quincy was quite an event. That city was only about thirty miles from our home town, but that was some distance to us at our ages then, when it took most of the day to make the trip. We went by stage, a vehicle that would now be called a sping wagon with a top to it. Leaving Barry at 9:30 a. m. we would reach Quincy at 4 p. m. if we were on time. We would return the next day or two. Now the trip can be made in an hour or less on the new concrete pavement.

Mother was in the mercantile business and Quincy was her wholesale market. Another inducement for her was that she had a sister there so she could combine pleasure with business. As I was the youngest of the trio of boys' mother took me with her more often than either of the others. I thought it great sport to go as Quincy to me was a wonderful city.

There was one object on the route that had a fascination for me. That was a genuine old Holland windmill that stood on a prominent corner lot in Payson village. The windmill furnished power to operate a flour mill, and was a great curiosity to me. When on our trips to the city I would begin looking for the windmill soon after leaving home, and if for any reason we failed to pass by it when going through the village I was terribly disappointed.

The old windmill has long since been removed but it is still fresh in my mind, and I never fail to look for it to this day when passing through Payson.

## PLEASURE TRIPS TAKEN.

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Our family was not given to much travel. There was a reason for it. Mother had too much on her hands if she had had the means to travel, which she did not. Us boys could have spared the time, but had not the cash necessary to pay the bills. Consequently there was little traveling for us in our younger days, and in fact for most of the family in after years either I was the only one so situated that traveling of any consequence could be done. The principal reason for that was that up to 1898 I was in the newspaper business and it was easy for newspaper men to obtain from the railroads such transportation as they needed or desired. Then after I retired from the newspaper I fell into another position that favored me in several trips that afforded me genuine pleasure. That was being appointed a trustee of the Illinois state school for the deaf. At that time meetings of the national association of charities and correction were held over the country, and it was the habit to have delegates sent from the school to those meetings. Meetings of these kinds that I attended were held in Detroit, Richmond, Va., Philadelphia, Portland, Me., from which side trips were afforded to such cities as New York City, Trenton, N. J., Montreal and Toronto, Canada, Boston, and Springfield, Mass.

Other trips I had the pleasure of taking were to Washington City, Cleveland, Oklahoma City, Little Rock, The trips mentioned above were made by me in company with other representatives, but Mrs. Watson was not along.

Several very enjoyable journeys were made by both of us. Places visited together may be listed as Denver and Colorado Springs, Golden, Manitou, Col., Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., Fairbury, Neb., Horton, Kan., Madison, Wis., St. Louis, Chicago, and other places of lesser note.



**Calot E. Baker.**

Our trip to Minneapolis and St. Paul was made by steamboat up the Mississippi river and took about a week going each way. We went to Madison, Wis., by auto, and to Denver and Colorado Springs by passenger train. All of these trips were very delightful, and thoroughly enjoyed. The same can be said of my trips to Washington City, Philadelphia, Boston, New York City, Richmond, Portland, Detroit, and the Canadian cities. My visit to Cleveland was to attend the funeral of President Garfield, and one of the trips to Washington City was to attend the inauguration of President BenJ. Harrison in 1888.

While at Portland, Me., I had the pleasure of a side trip to the White Mountain country of New Hampshire, a section of the United States that I had always dreamed of visiting, but really never expected to. I was well repaid for my trouble. It was in June and the summer resorts for which that country is so much noted were just opening up and I had a good insight into the manner of conducting them. Another side trip I took at that time was to Old Orchard Beach, a famous sea coast resort not far from Portland, where I saw fishing in its best state, and a full complement of pleasure seekers.

On one of my visits to Washington City I had the privilege of attending sessions of both houses of Congress and seeing and recognizing many of the leading statesmen of the country of both political parties. On the same visit, John Gallaher, an old friend from Pittsfield who was then on the Metropolitan police force of that city, accompanied me on a tour of the White House, the President's mansion. It was made at midnight when the family of the president was temporarily absent, which was indeed a rare opportunity for me and one that does not often come to one from the country districts.

New York City I found to be almost too large to suit my convenience. However, I managed to put in a few days looking over the scenes there presented. I stopped at the Ambassador hotel out at Twenty-third street and on the Sunday morning I was there, with a friend of mine from Jacksonville, we concluded to

walk down town for breakfast at one of the many restaurants to be found there. We walked probably five or six miles and not a restaurant did we find to be open and serving meals. Another strange thing to us was that not a saloon was open for business, but of course we were not looking for such a place. It was remarkable to us that a city with its millions could control such affairs, when in our own country nothing of the kind was thought possible even in the smaller places.

Of all the outings Mrs. Watson and myself have indulged in our visit to California was the best and most agreeable. We made two trips to that state and our stay there was very extensive for us both times. The first trip was taken in early January, 1927, and the second a year later. On our outward journey we took a rather circuitous route to enable us to visit relatives and friends we had not seen for years and probably would not see them soon again if ever. We first visited Memphis, Tenn., where resides our nephew, Earl Watson, and family, and with whom we spent a week very pleasantly. From Memphis we went to Dallas, Texas, where we spent a couple of days with Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Palmer, former residents of Barry and old friends. From Dallas we went directly to Los Angeles, California, via El Paso, Tex., Tucson, Ari., and intermediate points of the Southern railroad. Our stay in Los Angeles was short, as we left immediately for Long Beach, our headquarters in the Pacific coast state. Three and a half months were spent in that city and Los Angeles, most of the time in the former city. On our first trip we were going almost daily and visited nearly every city and town in all that territory. There is much to entertain a person at both places, but we found Long Beach more desirable to stay in as it is not such a large place and crime is not so general there, although they have enough of it. Jamie Yancy, an old friend and former citizen of Barry, is chief of police there and is making a very capable officer. There are also scores of old Barry friends in Long Beach who laid themselves out in entertaining us and showing the attractions of their section, which indeed are many and interesting. As a coast



**J. Carswell and Wife.**



**Edith Miscall.**

pleasure resort Long Beach excells. They have ocean coasts, fishing, sea going vessels, oil fields, tourists by the hundreds at all seasons, and amusements galore. Motion pictures flourish there as in few other coast cities, as the studios are in close proximity to the city. It is also a wonderful church going city, and maintains a municipal band the year round that is noted for its excellency. Just now a new breakwater and municipal pier, to be followed by a magnificent municipal building, are under construction at an enormous expense. The climate while we were there was very fine, only a few rains and no cold weather in the winter months to speak of. To Mrs. Anna Chamberlin and Mrs. Fannie Perry we were especially indebted for our comfort and entertainment in the state.

Leaving Long Beach the middle of April, 1927, we passed through Los Angeles and on to Salt Lake City, Utah, where we passed a couple of days in viewing the sights and visiting old friends. There are many things worth viewing in that city, but the most interesting to us were the Mormon interests, which included the temple, tabernacle, monuments, business block, and the immense mercantile establishment maintained by the church society. Most of the inhabitants of Salt Lake are Mormons. We also had a peculiar interest in their schools, as Mrs. Watson's sister, Miss Kate Bonnel, was one of the instructors of the schools when they were first established by the gentiles years ago.

From Salt Lake City we went to Denver and from there to Lincoln, Neb., where we visited our relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Freeland and Mrs. Lena Watson, widow of our brother, Dr. T. M. Watson. It was well that we visited them at that time as Mrs. Watson has since passed away. From Lincoln, after a very pleasant visit, we went to Kansas City, where I submitted to an operation and spent a couple of weeks in St. Luke's hospital, while Mrs. Watson visited a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. McNeal in Kansas City and took a side trip to Topeka, Kan., to visit her neice, Mrs. Lizzie Burleigh, and family.

After leaving the hospital I joined her in visits both of these families and we enjoyed the outing at those places very much. We left for home the latter part of April.

On our trip to the coast in January, 1928, we engaged passage on the Santa Fe route from Kansas City and went direct to Los Angeles and Long Beach. This route took us through Kansas, part of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and southern California. We found it an excellent route to take, not only on account of the unique and interesting scenery, but owing to the stops for meals at stations, where we could get out and stretch our legs and take in the towns. The large number of Indians at the stations through New Mexico and Arizona also added interest for us, and if we cared to we could buy such trinkets as we desired from them. We did not do quite so much traveling about California on our second trip, but did a good deal when it is all summed up. We found the same good friends then and received the best of attention from them all during our stay. One attraction worthy of special mention on that visit was the celebrated Mission Play given at San Gabriel, Calif. It is a most elaborate production and has run every year for some time. It had great interest for us, almost as much as San Diego and Tia Juana, Mexico, had for us on our previous trip.

We did not undertake another visit to California this winter, but hope to sometime again, if all goes well.



Mr. and Mrs. William Begg.

## START OF MY BUSINESS CAREER.

My business career started in a peculiar way. I was in my first year in high school in the new building built in 1874, and was getting along nice, as I thought, in the spring of 1875, with hope of completing the three year course and then entering Lombard University at Galesburg, Ill., for a course of study as my brothers had done before me, when my brother Jon B. Watson, in order to engage in some occupation purchased from Theodore Doran his city bus and express business. At that time it indicated a fairly good business venture. Jon B. started out enthusiastically in his new calling, but it was not long until something happened between he and Doran that was disagreeable and Doran without ceremony took the express business back. As that was the best part of the trade it had a very depressing effect on Jon B. and in addition to this trouble further opposition showed up. John Scott started a new bus line. Both operated between town and the Wabash railway station. As Scott was equipped with a fine new carriage and a snappy dapple gray team, compared with my brother's very ordinary old carriage and just as ordinary a pair of horses, my brother saw nothing but ill luck ahead of him. One morning he announced to the family that he was done with bus driving. Suiting his actions to his words he left the bus in the barn, and no amount of family influence could induce him to alter his mind, even for a short time until he could find a buyer for the outfit.

All this happened about the time my school closed for the season. I was footloose and at once I decided to take the outfit and go after the business. This I did. I made it strong competition for Scott, and while it was unprofitable for both of us for a time I concluded he would be the first to feel the effects, as he was operating on borrowed money. I had it all right and it was not long before he sold out and retired from the trade.

That move played into my brother's hands and he once took the business back without ceremony, but it was for a short time only, as within a month or two he sold the outfit to Hiram Bedwill, who was then conducting the old De Haven hotel. That ended my experience as a bus driver, but worse than that it ended my schooling, which I have ever since regretted.

It was then in the summer of 1876, and I was out of a job. Various occupations that gave promise of furnishing future permanency and success were revolving in my mind. About that time John H. Cobb approached me with a proposition. He had in the fall of 1875 started the Barry Weekly Adage newspaper and job printing office and was casting about for a young man that he could hire at a low figure to go into the office and learn the printer's trade. The Cobbs were making a success of it, but one of them--Henry C. had a desire to return to his old home in New York. After thinking the matter over I concluded it was the best proposition in sight, and I decided to give it a trial. My salary was \$2.50 a week, barely enough to pay my board at a low rate.

My first labors in the printing office were the usual routine of the "printers devil," such as inking the forms, cleaning the rollers, feeding the jobbers, sweeping the office, etc. Those simple labors did not take me long to master; then I was encouraged to go forward in type setting and other work in regular order until I had acquired a "Smattering" of about everything to be done in a country printing office, from type setting, making up forms and setting, job work, manipulating the Washington hand press, revising mailing lists, to providing the reading matter for the paper. I would not say I wrote the editorials, as they did not attain that distinction.

At the end of possibly a year and a half, when things were going well and with no thought of any change in my mind, two men, S.E. Colegrove and Tim Wilson of Corry, Pa., showed up. Before I was aware that anything was brewing, Colegrove had purchased



Mrs. James Holmes

the Adage office, material, good will and all. I supposed that would settle my connection with the office as both men were practical printers and could easily run the office without my help. To my surprise, I was continued on the job, and if anything was given more responsibility than ever. Wilson was a foppish sort of a fellow, but bright and a good writer. He soon discovered that Barry was not the place he was looking for and departed for his old home in Pennsylvania, but not before he had won the affections of one of our socially prominent young ladies, and after a short married life left her and was not seen here thereafter. Colegrove, in the mean time, brought his wife here and they went to housekeeping with the apparent intention of settling down to his newly bought business. He was also smart enough, but was a man of few words and it soon developed that he was not calculated for a country printing office. Other troubles soon developed; his wife became mentally afflicted, and it took much of his time to look after her. One of her eccentricities was to set out in the front yard in a rocker in the midst of a snow storm and fan herself. She did other things just as pathetic, if amusing, that attracted the attention of passers-by.

The way things were drifting bothered me, and to add to my discomfort I learned that Colegrove drank. As may be imagined, my position was by that time anything but a pleasant one and it gave me grave concern, as nearly the whole responsibility of the office had fallen on my shoulders, young as I was.

One day early in 1878, Colegrove came to the office and said he would have to take his wife back home. The next day he left with her on the journey. He remained away for several weeks, during which time I had full charge of the Adage and job office. The experience I was having gave me confidence so that when Colegrove returned and proposed to sell out I was ready to consider the proposition. John H. Cobb had not long before returned to Barry with his family to reside and had started a job printing office in opposition to the Adage job office. He was anxious to get back in the newspaper game and he and

I formed a co-partnership and bought the *Adage* body type, presses, column rules, subscription list and good will from Colegrove. The rest of the necessary material Cobb had on hand. Colegrove shipped the unsold part of the equipment to his home in Gerry.

The new firm of Cobb & Watson started out under favorable circumstances and bid fair to make a success of it. Our association together was for only a short time, however, as Cobb developed another longing for his old home town in New York. I leased his half interest in the office and Cobb and family departed for the east with the understanding that he would be back in a few weeks. After arriving in New York he changed his mind again and opened negotiations with me to purchase his interest in the plant. We came to an agreement and in the fall of 1880 I became sole owner of the *Adage* office. From that date until November, 1898 I conducted the newspaper and job office, at that time selling the plant to E. A. Hess of Quincy, Ill. I was never what I considered a self satisfied publisher, realizing my lack of education and ability, but I never complained of the measure of success that came to me.

Along with the printing business I took on agency for some fire insurance companies as a side line, and was commissioned a notary public, from which I realized a few extra dollars a year. There were no real estate dealers in town at that time so I did some of that business.

After publishing the *Adage* for several years, Mr. Hess sold the plant to his son, Chet. A. Hess, who in turn organized a corporation known as the *Adage* Printing Corporation, and took over the opposition newspaper, called the *Barry Record*, from Rev. W. M. Hailey, the owner. That plant was consolidated with the *Adage* outfit. Mr. A. E. Hess soon after disposal of the paper went to his old home in Milwaukee, Wis. for a visit, and while there was run down and killed by a street car. The *Adage* is still filling a well merited place in the community.

Another side line I engaged in was a roller skating rink. That craze was going strong in Barry about forty years ago, and looked like a money maker. Geo.



Mrs. Margaret Watson and Baby Margaret

M. Blair and myself leased the room now owned by B. A. Campbell and occupied by him with a store, and put in a new outfit of skates, etc. Business went good for a time, then the fever relaxed and soon the bubble bursted. We retired from the venture with quite a loss.

While the foregoing list embraces most of my commercial activities, there were other enterprises that claimed my attention. For twenty years I was a partner with my brother J. B. Watson in the hardware business, but was not known in it. Other investments made by me, but hardly to be called commercial enterprises were purchases of farm land and town property. Altogether, I have owned in whole or in part forty-one such properties--six farms and the rest of them dwellings and business places, all of rental value and on which I have relied for our living expenses. Of the number owned I have now left on hand only our home, seven rented dwellings, one warehouse, and one large store building, besides three farms, on one of which is a twenty acre commercial orchard.

Our orchard has generally paid very good revenue, but the past year or two the crop did not amount to much. The 1927 crop was almost entirely destroyed by a sleet storm. Last year the crop was almost a complete failure. I am hoping for a better apple yield this year,

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One piece of property Jon B. Watson and myself purchased had quite a history. It was the old school house where both of us received our early learning. The building was abandoned for school purposes some time before we bought it from Geo. M. Blair, whose father acquired it from the school directors of our school district some years before he died. We gave \$1200 for the property, consisting of the building and two lots. On one of the lots we built a dwelling and the other lot was sold to Mrs. Emma Elder. When we dissolved partnership and ~~decided~~ the property, the dwelling fell to me. I sold it a few years after to Max Wike for \$1600. The old landmark was missed, but the improvements were more desirable.



Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Watson,  
Long Beach, Cal., 1928

## THE WATSON FAMILY IN MASONRY.

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The Watson family took to Masonry. Beginning with the father, who joined Barry Lodge #34 in the fifties each of the male members of the family and the son-in-law, Dunyan McConnell, all became members of the order in time. All except Dr. Watson affiliated with Barry Lodge; Dr. Watson united with Griggsville lodge after locating there. All took interest in the work and all of them held office in their lodge. Our father was a secretary, Jon B. was treasurer and held other offices, William Walcott held the office of Worshipful Master for nine years in succession, and B. McConnell was Worshipful Master, all in Barry lodge, while Dr. Watson occupied the position of Worshipful Master of his lodge.

Barry Lodge #34 was organized in 1845, when the town was young, and not having a lodge room meetings were held in private residences. In later years the lodge prospered, and then they built a three story building of brick. The lower story was occupied for mercantile purposes, and the second story was occupied for lodge purposes as was the third story. Fire destroyed the building in 1894, during the big conflagration. That same year the lodge erected a fine new three story building. It was dedicated in October of that year by R. W. Brother Owen Scott, acting as deputy grand master for Leroy A. Goddard, who was unable to be present. The ceremony was very impressive and a large audience was present to enjoy it. I then formed an acquaintance with Brother Scott that lasted through the remaining years. He was afterward grand secretary. Only a few weeks ago he died in Decatur while occupying the office.

My connection with Masonry dates from the fall of 1880. I had entertained very favorably opinion of the society for years previous to sending in my name for the degrees, and after I became a member I was more pleased than ever with the workings of it.

Fourteen other young fellows of my social group followed me with applications and gave the lodge plenty of work for several weeks, possibly months.

The worshipful master of a lodge is the representative to the grand lodge by reason of his office. During my long service as Worshipful Master I attended every session of the grand lodge until I received advancement so that another representative of the lodge could attend. By this means I became familiar with the personal of the grand lodge and in time received recognition from the appointing officers. My first appointment was by grand master George M. Moulton, and was to the office of grand steward, in 1897. Re-appointment came from grand master Chester E. Allen for the next two years. In 1900 I was appointed grand sword bearer by grand master C. F. Hitchcock.

One of my particular Masonic friends was grand secretary Isaac Cutter of Camp Point, Ill., who held an influential position in the grand lodge. On a day in 1906 I received a letter from Bro. Cutter informing me that a vacancy in deputy grand master for the 32d district existed and that I was desired for the office. The district was composed of Pike and Brown counties and had twenty-one lodges in it. I was loth to accept the offer but finally did so at the earnest solicitation of my friend Cutter. That was before the days of autos in our section. Some of the lodges I could visit by train, but quite a number of them I had to visit by horse and buggy. Another and serious drawback was that nearly all the lodges met "on or before the full moon in each month" as was at that time customary, and at least two-thirds of them met on the same night. My trips to Brown county required three days to visit the three lodges and the southern part of Pike county took the same. Another objectionable feature was that the deputy had to pay his own expenses, unless the lodges offered to pay the expenses, which was not often the case. I held the office for eight years, and when my friend Dr.



W. W. Watson Birth Place.

Roy Wheeler came in as grand master I suggested to him that he appoint some one else as deputy grand master. He insisted on renewing my appointment, but we finally compromised by his naming me for a member of the chartered lodge committee, a position I held for another eight years. The last year of my deputy grand mastership a new law was enacted that gave the deputies their expenses. I had one year of that.

During my connection with the grand lodge my familiarity with the workings of the order enable me to be of assistance to secure several appointments for aspiring young Masons. I could also aid new masters in the matter of registration, credentials, railroad rates, etc., also in showing them about Chicago.

Until the last few years I was a regular attendant at lodge, but as I grew older my interest waned until of late I am clear out of the lodge going habit. Another thing, I did much "lecturing" of candidates when young.

The annual Masonic social was an event looked forward to by members and their ladies for years. It was usually held during the holidays when a good many of our people who were in business or school away from home, returned for a visit and they were always glad to attend the festivity. It nearly always fell to me to make the motion for the social, but during my time they were always voted for. Nothing is heard of the old time socials of late years.

Meeting nights when there was work we could nearly always count on visitors from some of the surrounding lodges. We usually had refreshments on those occasions, and had big times. Once in a while a team from our lodge would go to a neighboring lodge to do work for them. Many a good time was had on such visits.

## OTHER LINES OF MASONRY.

Some of us did not confine our efforts to Blue lodge Masonry. Jon B. was active in Royal Arch Chapter work, and while I was a member of that organization also and held several different offices in it I did not take the interest there that I did in the lower branch. The other branches also claimed my attention at times, that is the Knight Templar commandery #49 of Pittsfield, and the Chapter of Royal and Select Masters #22 of Barry.

Work in all these lodges is entertaining when it is properly executed, as it generally is in the orders of this city. The convocation of the Royal Arch Chapter, when the degrees are to be exemplified do generally attract large attendance of the companions. Banquets generally follow the work and these are appreciated by the younger set. The same may be said of Barry Chapter #20, Order of the Eastern Star. The ladies of that chapter are enthusiastic and have some royal good times at their meetings

The Knight Templar degrees were always a favorite with me as they are with all who receive them. My membership was in Ascalon Commandery, but owing to the distance from home I did not often attend and I finally took a demit and retired from membership.

Barry Chapter #22 of Royal and Select Masters is not in existence now and is not known to modern Masons of our city. It was never very strong in membership, and had to give up its charter years ago.

Other lodges I belonged to were the Knights of

W. W. Watson Residence Erected 1894.



Honor, Ancient Order of United Workmen, Good Templars, Knights of Pythias, Home Forum, and Modern Woodmen of America. The last named is the only one I now belong to; the others long ago went out of existence, except the Knights of Pythias.

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Ruins W. W. Watson Printing Office and Residence -  
concentrated on May 30, 1904.

## THE CONFLAGRATION OF 1894.

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When the alarm of fire was sounded on the air at 4:30 on the morning of March 30, 1894, it struck terror to those who heard it. And well it might have. Such a conflagration had never visited Barry before. It was evident from the first there would be great destruction of property. The flames first broke out in the Hollembaek opera house, located at the corner of the alley on the north side of Block 23, where a dance had taken place the night before. Our home was on the west side of the same block, and part of the lot was taken up with my printing office building. Dr. F. G. Varney occupied rooms in the upper story of his brick building, which stood just across the street from the opera house. He was the first to discover the fire, and the alarm that he gave was in such a distressing voice that it startled me. I then realized that something awful had happened and hastened to the scene. A glance at the flames convinced me of the enormity of the situation, and I hurried back home and informed Mrs. Watson of the danger we had ahead of us. She at once took charge of the removal of our furniture to the street a block away while I organized a force and got what merchandise I could out of the J. B. Watson hardware store which was located in a building adjoining the opera house, Jon B. not having yet heard of the fire. Others were then removing what they could of my printing outfit to a place of safety.

The fire department was soon on the scene, but the water supply was not equal to the emergency, one after another of the store buildings went down with their contents. Some owners outside of the range of the first destroyed were fortunate in saving quite an amount of their stocks. The entire north half of Block 23 was laid waste; then the south half of Blk 20; then the southeast quarter of Block 21, and fi-

nally all but one building of the northwest quarter of Block 22. Fortunately no lives were lost and no person was seriously injured, which was remarkable for such a disastrous fire.

Some fifty persons in all were losers in the fire among whom the principals were: J. B. & A. J. Chamberlin, building and stock; Masonic Lodge, building and outfit; J. H. Mallery, building and stock; J. B. Watson, stock; C. W. Goodale, stock; G. D. Mayes & Son, building and stock; Dr. Varney, building, furniture and grocery stock; Dr. G. W. Doyle, residence; Wm. Bright, residence and furniture; City of Barry, city building; John Siegle, building and stock; F. M. McNeal, grocery stock; Thornton & Pitts, harness stock; D. K. Weiss, druggs; J. Weber, building; J. J. Hughes, furniture stock; C. H. Ware, stationery; Hollembeak & Son, building and stock; W. E. Powell, cigar stock; Wike Bros., warehouse, and more than a score of other light losers. Our own loss was on our home and contents and on the printing office equipment and building, amounting to about \$5,000.

The total property loss was over \$100,000 with insurance covering about two-thirds of it, nearly all of the insurance being in my agency. Those who have had experience in such matters will realize how busy I was with all that on my hands, and trying at the same time to get out the *Adage* at the same time. Several insurance adjustors arrived the following week and I had to give them attention. Every loss was adjusted and fairly so, and prompt settlement was made.

The *Weekly Adage* for that week and the next week or two was printed in the *Democrat* office at Pittsfield, our own employes setting the type, first in that office and next in the *Independent* office at Griggsville. The paper was out on time and never missed an issue, although it took strenuous work to make the record.

During this time I had purchased a cylinder press at Quincy and had it set up in the Jeff Pence blacksmith shop, the only available location I could find.

There the press work of the Adage was done until a new office building could be built on the old location. The type setting during that time was done in the second story of the Churchill building at the northwest corner of the city park. We were soon in our new building, however, as it was rapidly constructed.

When it came time to move the press to the new building, I had it loaded bodily on a low wheeled wagon and transported it without trouble, then slid it right into its place on the floor. It was rather risky thing to do, but to dismantle the press and then set it up again would have been a big job and we had no time to spare, so I took the chances and won.

Everywhere in the burned district there was hustle and bustle, clearing away rubbish and getting ready to rebuild. Property owners who did not care to rebuild sold out to others who did. Building activities were going strong. The Adage office was the first to be completed, then followed in rapid succession many other buildings, until by late fall of that year nearly every vacant space was occupied with new and better brick buildings. So far as the town was concerned the fire was "a benefit in disguise," but it was hard on some of the individual losers. Our town now compares well with other towns of its size in this or any other state.

One good result of the fire was the improvement in the fighting apparatus and the water system. We now have a well trained volunteer company that does excellent work, and they are equipped with two fine motor fire trucks and plenty of hose, so that they are equal to any ordinary fire. Of course, when a conflagration comes along as it did in 1894 it can hardly be expected they could cope with it.

## BARRY CHAUTAUQUA.

Barry Chautauqua has long held a place in the estimation of our citizens: It was organized about the year 19 and has grown in influence and favor until to-day it is recognized as one of the strong independent chautauquas of the country. According to all who seem to know our chautauqua is one of two that operates on the Barry plan. It is unique in that it sells season tickets that admit the holder to twelve excellent entertainments for one dollar. It is in this respect that it is a marvel to managers of other entertainments of a similar character.

Barry Chautauqua started out as a ten day enterprise. It has a history. One evening in the store of J. B. Watson, in Barry, a group of men casually met and in the discussion that usually follows such a meeting the subject of carnivals came up, their effects on a community, and especially on the young people, and how to counteract their influence. Many suggestions were offered and discussed, and finally Rev. D. V. Gowdy, who was present, offered a concrete proposition that instantly met with the approbation of the company. He proposed the organization of an chautauqua. He had formerly had some experience in that line and felt that it could be made a go on the plan he outlined, which was to sell one thousand season tickets at one dollar each and put the full sum in talent, counting on the single admissions to cover the incidental expenses. It was decided to undertake the experiment. That evening after I went home I gave the matter considerable thought and sized up the community as I knew it and made a list of persons I was reasonably sure would pledge to take season tickets. Some were listed for ten tickets, some for five, and others for smaller numbers. On the strength of this estimate I decided to give it a try-out myself. I did so and remarkable as may appear I secured from nearly every person I had listed the

the number of season tickets I had allotted to him in my mind. Of the desired one thousand pledges I secured fully ninety per cent, and the balance of the number was obtained by others.

The organization of the chautauqua proceeded with along the lines suggested by Rev. Gowdy, and the following August the first entertainments were given under the management of Rev. Gowdy. It was held on the public school grounds, as in fact every annual entertainment since then to 1928 has been held. The ten days were occupied and the numbers were satisfactory. Of course, they were not first-class, but they were very good, considering the price. Selecting the talent was not so easy as one would think, but the committees finally got onto it fairly well. I have held a place on that committee ever since the organization was formed, and am still with it, but am trying to make way for a younger person, but with indifferent success.

Ten days were soon found to be too long and the sessions were reduced to eight days, and afterward to six days, which seems to be about the proper number to suit the average audience. At the start we used a small tent, and as the crowds increased we increased the size of the tent. We now use a tent 70x110 feet in size. For a long time we have used chairs for seating instead of the common circus ones used at first.

Conducting an independent chautauqua we found it advisable to patronize different bureaus in selecting our talent. That feature has proved quite successful. The different bureaus knew if they did not come up to contracts that would end our patronage. Two or three bureaus found that out to their sorrow some time ago. These we have dealt with are the Coit Abler Company, Chautauqua Managers Association, Jas. H. Shaw, and the Lohr Independent Chautauqua Company of Bloomington, Ill. Talent for several years now is costing us about \$1,500 annually. Now and then a well number slips in on us the best we can do, but as a rule the programs are highly appreciated and that is

what is most desirable. Varied programs are most appreciated; that is what we try and secure.

Among the talent we have listed in the past are the following: Lecturers, Stricklen Gillilan, Wm. J. Bryan, Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi, Judge George Alden, Rev. Jas S. Montgomery, Rev. Roy F. Smith, "Mother" Lake, Gabriel Maguire, Bob Seeds, Wm. Rainey Bennett, Lincoln McConnell, Arthur Walwyn Evans, Gov. Frank O. Lowden, Dr. Stanley Krebs, Dr. Edward Amherst Ott, Glenn Frank, Dr. Herbert Willets, Sylvester Long, Lou J. Beauchamp, Fred G. Hale, Judge Kavenaugh, Wirt Bowther, and others.

Musicians: Goforth's orchestra, Harry Davies opera company, Chicago Ladies Orchestra, Preachers Quartette, Dixie Jubilees, Grossmans Sympathy Orchestra, Vitalli's Band, Phillipino orchestra, Ye Old Folks Choir, Walter Eccles and his College Girls, Hruby Bohemian Orchestra, Backman's Million Dollar Band, Illinois State Band of Quincy, Wolverine Quartette.

Entertainers: Castle Square Company, Reno the Magician, Crawford Adams Company, Jess Pugh Company, Weatherwax Brothers, DeJen the Wizard, Fisher-Shipp Company, Wm. Sterling Battis, Chief Caupolican, Howard Quintette, Totten the Magician.

While the chautauqua has not entirely succeeded in eradicating the street carnival it has been an educator and where in former years a good portion of the audiences would leave as soon as the lectures commence, now there is very little of that and old and young are interested in what the lecturers have to say and stay throughout the entertainment. Another thing worth noting is that never since the chautauqua started have we been bothered with drunken or noisy persons on the grounds, nor has there been any need of police protection.

## OTHER AMUSEMENTS.

Barry has long been noted as an amusement center. In former years when circuses could afford to visit towns of our size they were always patronized by large crowds. The first circus that exhibited in our place so far as recorded was the Van Amburg show, a small attraction, and it spread its tents in the public park. In other years we had the Ringling Brothers circus, Adam Forepaugh show, John O'Brien's circus, Heming, Cooper and Whitby show, W. W. Coles's circus, Walter L. Main show, Gollmar Brothers circus, and others. Several of these obtained national reputations in after years.

In the early days of the circus business they always traveled overland with teams and wagons. Then it was that youngsters like myself would arise about four o'clock circus morning and walk out on the highway several miles to meet the cavalcade, always waiting to the last for the band wagon, which nearly always trailed the rest of the outfit. We also had a way of working our way into the shows by carrying water for the animals and horses or doing some other drudgery we would never thought of doing at home. In later days since the advent of the concrete roads many of the smaller shows travel by motor cars and trucks. The railroad rates are now so high that only the large shows can afford that mode of travel.

Dramatic and musical companies and other entertainments of a similar nature have always been well received here. We could boast in having opera houses in those days, which were inducements for these companies to come here.

Starting with the old grout church, which was built by the Universalists about 1858 and which was purchased by C. & S. Davis and W. F. White & Bro. along in the seventies and re-modeled and improved, it was quite presentable and filled the want. A lot of good



Barry's First Opera House Dismantled 1896.

shows were held there; in fact, the building came into general use for all sorts of entertainments and public gatherings. Hollembeak opera house came next, after the old opera house had outlived its purpose, and served the community for several years before it was destroyed in the big fire of 1894. The next opera house was built by John Weber and Frank McNeal, on Lots 7 and 8, Block 20. It was a very substantial and modern one, built of brick and finished in true opera house style. This building was destroyed Jan. 26, 1914, after several years use.

I recall some of the old time companies that visited Barry: Simon & Kendall's dramatic company, A. J. Sharpley's with Aida Lawrence (Mrs. Sharpley) as leading lady, Kendall's dramatic company, with Fred Felton as leading actor, the Crowe Sisters company, Kibler's Band and Dramatic company, Beach & Bowers Minstrels, Garter's Jubilees, etc., most of which made annual visits to our town and were favorites of our citizens.

Like other traveling companies the above entertainers found the railroad rates prohibitive and it followed that they had to retire from the road. Of the number listed most all of the performers have long since passed from the stage and probably have passed from earth. Such companies are not seen in the smaller town now. The companies that do come to our town are as a rule tent shows such as the Darr & Gray company, who travel overland in autos and exhibit only in the summer and fall. Motion picture entertainments have largely succeeded the other kind of shows of recent years. Barry has a very good one of this kind and is right up to date in serving its patrons with an excellent run of pictures. Our theatre is operated in connection with one at Pittsfield and is managed by Russell Armentrout of that place, is in much favor as a promoter.

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Our town has also been in the front rank on big days, such as old settlers meetings, political gath-

erings, Fourth of July celebrations, Decoration days, Armistice days, farmers picnics, etc., when the people turn out in large numbers. The larger the crowds the better they are liked.

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One entertainment took place in the old opera house that will not soon be forgotten by any person who was present. A dapper like fellow came along with an assistant or two and announced a fine show at the opera house that evening. He had a novel way of advertising. He went about the business part of town and displayed a large amount of cash that he proposed as an inducement for the people to go and witness the entertainment. He hired a band and otherwise added to the publicity until the citizens concluded something big was going to take place. They were right about it only it showed up in a way they were not expecting. The house was crowded. After a vaudeville program was given, the fellow put on a real entertainment. Calling a couple of prominent citizens to the stage, he announced that his business there was real to advertise the O. I. C. soap, a new and excellent grade of soap, as he stated. His way of doing the advertising was to distribute cash in such a way they would always remember, and every once in a while he would throw out to the audience a handful of silver pieces for the men and boys to scramble over. Then he brought out a box of envelopes, all numbered and several of them having money sticking out in view of the audience. At this point he called upon the committee on the stage to examine the envelopes to satisfy the audience. Then he began selling the envelopes in genuine lottery style, all the while impressing upon the minds of the citizens his soap advertising. The audience became enthusiastic and the dollars rolled into his till, all expecting to receive in return some of the bills. Finally the drawing took place but the dollars failed to show up. A madder lot of persons is not often seen, and the cry of fraud went up. Men took after the fakir, but he was too quick for them.

and he rushed out of the opera house by a rear door and boarded a carriage in waiting. That was the last seen of him. He surely advertised the O. I. C. soap, but our people were out about \$1,000 by the game he played. The incident is still well remembered in our town.

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Several years ago N. R. Davis built a large hall for roller skating and other similar purposes. That craze did not last long, and as the building was not showing a rental profit it was offered for sale. It was the place needed for large gatherings and basket ball and other games played indoors.

Fearing the public might be deprived of the use of the building by the sale of it for commercial purposes, a group of citizens, numbering forty, contributed \$100 each to a fund and purchased it. An addition to the hall was built at a cost of \$2,000 and a stage, curtains, scenery, etc., was secured at a further cost of \$700. The property was then leased to the board of education to be used for school entertainments, etc. Basket ball games also have their place in the school program, and the public has the opportunity of leasing it for meetings and entertainments. The building is known as the Coliseum. It is still owned by several of the original purchasers but the control of it is with John Snider and myself, who own more than half of the stock. The officers of the organization are, L. F. Bright, president; J. M. Snider, secretary, and W. W. Watson, treasurer. The property was leased year before last to the board of education at \$600 per year, which is helping wipe out the indebtedness caused by the improvements.

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#### LYCEUM COURSES.

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Long before the chautauqua was started and es-

tablished, with other enterprising citizens I took interest in Lyceum courses for winter entertainments. We had one of these courses nearly every winter. We would go out and take pledges early in the season for season tickets, but if that preliminary was overlooked we generally were called upon to make up a deficit at the close of the course. For a long time this soliciting fell to Harry Hollenbeck and myself, although others would help a little at times.

We usually contracted with the Redpath bureau for the talent, as it was the main bureau in that line. Some important personages appeared on our platform during the years we operated. Of the number may be mentioned, Theodore Tilton, George R. Wendling, Geo. W. Bain, Susan B. Anthony, Ralph Bingham, Frances E. Willard, Ralph Parlette,

Of late years the lyceums have been fostered by some society about town or by some department of the public schools.



Business Block, Barry, Illinois.  
1896

CORPORATIONS I HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN  
ORGANIZING.

That I have participated in organizing several of the corporations incorporated in Barry need be no surprise to readers of these notes. There were not many commercial affairs of the kind which I did not take a hand in. Following were the prominent ones I was instrumental in organizing:

Barry Fair Association.

Farmers & Merchants Telephone Company.

First National Bank of Barry.

Barry Milling & Grain Company.

Barry State Bank.

Davis Hardware Company.

Barry Cemetery Association.

Barry Fair Association was started in 1880 by E. T. Cooke and myself. It was originally on the mushroom order. Tents were used for exhibition purposes, there were no amphitheatre or other buildings.

Three years later the fair was incorporated and the capital stock was invested in the necessary outfit of buildings, etc. A. C. Hollembeak was elected president and Warren Lyons secretary. At the death of Mr. Lyons the secretaryship went to C. H. Ware. The fair was successful until a few years before it was done away with, when a series of rainy weather was encountered and it was drowned out, after existing ten years. It is now but a pleasant memory.

Barry Real Estate Company was organized to relieve Barry Lodge #34, A. F. & A. M. of a financial burden assumed when it built a new temple after the big fire in 1894. I assembled a group of lodge members and the corporation was formed. We purchased the first and second stories of the building for

\$4,000, and further along in the corporation's history we purchased the two story brick building that adjoined the Masonic building, from John Siegle for \$2,500, then added an addition on the north of that building at a cost of \$2,000, which property was established as a hotel, and was named Hotel Harris. It was fitted up in good style at quite an expense, and was leased to D. L. Buckworth of Paxton, Ill., who turned out to be a failure as a landlord. Others succeeded him, with no better success.

During this time we sold the interests in the Masonic building and purchased the remains of the old opera house that was destroyed by fire, and the lots on which they were situated. That property was rebuilt and converted into a garage, which proved a very good investment.

The ill luck of the hotel investment caused several of the stockholders to wish to retire from the corporation, and their interests were purchased by A. J. Chamberlin and myself. We then converted the hotel building into other commercial uses and then received better income from the building.

Mr. Chamberlin moved to California and I purchased his interests. I then made the corporation what might be considered a Watson family affair. All of my family of wife, daughter and myself, and Bret and his wife were elected directors. I became president and treasurer, Bret was secretary, Mrs. Margaret was vice president.

In December, 1926, we sold the hotel property to Mrs. Elizabeth Potter for \$5,000, and she restored to hotel and still operates it. Two weeks later we sold the garage to T. J. McVay for \$6,000, and he in turn sold it to the Lease Motor Company at an increased profit. The debts of the corporation were paid, the cash assets were divided among the Watson families, and the corporation was dissolved and the charter surrendered. Mrs. Margaret and myself made very pleasant sojourns in California during the winter months of January, February and March, 1927-28 on the strength of the profits of my investments.

The first telephone company to operate in Barry was built by the Mutual Union Telephone Company along in the eighties. It was a toll line and the local office was in the Adage office, with myself as agent. That company was ahead of the times in our county, and the service did not pay. In the course of a few years the company was consolidated with another company and the lines in Pike county were abandoned.

In 1897 a telephone promoter named W. W. Davis came to Barry and succeeded in stirring up considerable interest in telephone affairs, which by that time were coming into commercial uses throughout the country. A cheap line had been built between Barry and Pittsfield. Davis was short of funds and as an inducement for several of us to go into his scheme of building a line he offered stock in the company he was organizing at \$25.00 a share. He bought the county line on the strength of funds thus received.

When the Pittsfield line was nearly finished he had another proposition to offer, and that was to build a line from Barry to Beverly via Hadley, Ill. This line was to cost \$600 and was to become a part of the company heretofore formed. I took that stock and the line was built. Next Davis proposed to build a line from Beverly to Quincy for \$1200 upon the same terms. M. T. Stauffer and I took all of that stock, giving us control of the company. Then it was that we began to discuss our liability in the business in case of accidents, etc., with the result that the Farmers and Merchants Telephone Co was organized. It did a toll business exclusively, with stations at Barry, Pittsfield, El Dara, Hadley, Beverly, Richfield, Liberty, Burton, Quincy. Private exchanges soon developed and asked for connections with our company. The telephone filled a long felt want through the country districts, and it paid a fair revenue in return. I was manager of the company.

In the course of a few years the minority stockholders began to dispose of their stock and I purchased the shares as they were offered to me, at a low price; then Stauffer found other uses for his

money and offered his stock to me at a price that was fair and it was also purchased. That gave me entire control of the company.

Soon after coming into control of the company a prominent electric company of Chicago submitted a proposition to put in an exchange in Quincy to co-operate with the Farmers and Merchants company. It was to be an opposition exchange to the Bell company's exchange, and that management became considerably worked up over it. When we applied for a franchise for another exchange they fought it and defeated the proposition. The movement had the effect of causing the Bell company starting negotiations for the purchase of my company. From the number of solicitors and attorneys that called on me in regard to the matter a person would have thought I was one of the big magnets. I finally sold to the Bell company at a good profit. That closed my experience as a telephone manager. The action of the Bell folks was simply to do away with opposition. They soon dissolved the Farmers and Merchants company and sold the lines to the Pike County Telephone company, who continue to operate them.

The First National Bank of Barry came into existence in 1901. The group of Masens mentioned in the write up of the Barry Real Estate Company, having purchased the lower part of the Masonic building, were looking for a good tenant for the lower story. They conceived the idea of organizing a bank as it would be about the best thing in sight. The bank organization was soon organized and First National Bank was selected as the name. Capital stock was placed at \$25,000, all subscribed by the group, which consisted of A. J. Chamberlin, W. W. Watson, T. A. Retallic, O. Williamson, Jas. Sykes, R. H. Main and Lloyd Kinney. Retallic was elected president and Williamson cashier. With these two I am now the only original subscribing stockholders still holding stock in the bank.



A Watson Group

The Barry Milling and Grain Company succeeded the old Barry Milling Company which long operated in our city and was one of the leading mills of our section, having large elevator interests as well. That mill succeeded the Shields and Perry mill, which in turn had succeeded the Brown and McTucker mill at Little St. Louis. All of these flour mills did good business in their days.

The interests of Barry Milling Company were very closely identified with the interests in the Exchange Bank of Barry, which failed in September, 1905. At the time of that failure the Barry Milling Company owed the bank a large sum which it was not able to pay. To satisfy this claim the milling property was sold at public sale. I was in the crowd attending the sale. The auction was going slow and the crier was having a hard time getting bids. It looked like the property was going to be sold very low, which it did. I hastily assembled three friends and we made a bid of \$4,000 for the entire property of flour mill, two elevators, coal sheds, and several acres of land, worth about \$40,000 at a fair price. The next thing was to decide what to do with the outfit. Henry Langerhans had been head miller at the mill, and he expressed a wish to form a new company and continue the business. The other purchasers and myself offered to turn the property over to him for that purpose, but before completing the deal Langerhans got "cold feet" and pulled out of the prospective company, saying it was worrying him so badly he could not sleep at night. The company was organized without him.

A miller from Pleasant Plains, Mo., was engaged, and he took the stock allotted to Langerhans; as a starter he called for the complete rebuilding of the mill, changing the whole system at an expense of several thousand dollars, which demand was acceded to by the directors. The improvements were made and the mill started grinding flour. The manager thought the sales were not going fast enough, so he took the road and contracted for a large invoice of flour at a low price. We did not have the wheat on hand to make it.

The price of wheat advanced so that when the flour was called for by the purchasers there was a loss of about \$6,000, That satisfied the stockholders of the business capacity of the manager, and he was let out on short notice. Another manager was found and he was no greater success than his predecessor, and finally the mill burned, but not before one of the elevators was destroyed and litigation occurred over losses on wheat stored by patrons of the company. When our debts were paid we received a fair investment out of it. The elevator and grounds were sold to another group of home stockholders who erected a new elevator and new coal sheds and otherwise improved the property. The new purchasers have built up a profitable trade since they took hold of it.

Barry State Bank was organized in 1906, after a reasonable time after the old bank failure. With a list of some forty others I took ten shares of the stock of \$25,000. The bank opened at the old stand of the Exchange Bank. John Weber was chosen cashier and J. O. Strubinger president. I was elected one of the directors. The bank prospered, and increased its capital stock to \$50,000. The bank was moved to the corner room on the same block, and is still at that location. There has been several changes in the corps of officers and stockholders. J. H. Jones is now cashier and J. O. Strubinger is president. I sold my stock and resigned as a director several years ago. Seven directors govern the bank now instead of nine.

Three things cut a figure in starting Davis Hardware Company. They were: Barry State Bank desired the Blair corner room for a business stand; I wanted a good tenant for my store room, and N. R. Davis was looking for a job. But for these interests it is probable the company would never have been organized. To be more specific, Royalty Bros. were in

the hardware business in the coveted store room and wished to dispose of the stock and business, but as buyers were scarce they were having slow going. The State Bank was anxious for their location, and were at a loss to work out some way of securing it. The thought entered my mind that it might be a good opportunity to capture a tenant. I obtained an option on the Royalty business, and then set about to find enough bank stockholders to furnish capital for a new company to make the purchase. Capital stock was placed at \$6,000. Those who offered to take some of the stock were John Weber, N. R. Davis, O. S. Campbell, J. O. Strubinger, T. D. Kaylor, W. A. Strubinger, T. K. Campbell, B. B. Watson and myself. The company organized as Davis Hardware Company. Royalty stock was purchased and removed to my building, in Block 35, and Barry State Bank moved into the room they so anxiously sought. N. R. Davis was elected as manager of the hardware company; he was followed by W. M. Hailey, and he by F. A. Clark. The company did a very good business for a while, but not enough to satisfy all who were financially interested. Some four years ago the business was sold to Grammer, Ramsey & Co., of Baylis, Ill., who took charge at once. This firm organized their own corporation and the Davis Hardware Company was dissolved, the charter was surrendered and the assets of the corporation was distributed among the stockholders.

Several years ago a movement was started to improve our city cemetery, which had been neglected for a long time and was in need of attention. All the looking after it received was from a committee of the city council, members of which frequently changed, and generally which were young and inexperienced, or had only passing interest in the cemetery. When interest of those most interested in the project were aroused a fund was quickly raised and a cement coping was placed around the enclosure to ward off encroaching live stock, etc. The next

move was to take the cemetery out of the hands of the city council, which was in reality anxious to be relieved of it. Several of our enterprising citizens, with Mr. E. W. Blades at the head, planned and completed a corporation, known as the Barry Cemetery Association and took over from the city council deed to the city cemetery. The incorporators were E. W. Blades, H. L. Hadsell, W. W. Watson, C. B. Dabney, M. C. Brown and John McTucker, all of whom had relatives buried in the cemetery and were deeply interested; its interest was their concern. They were also elected the trustees of the corporation. Their operating expenses are met with income from a bequest of Mrs. Mary Brown.

The work of renovating the grounds of the cemetery were started soon as these details were completed and the new board was placed in charge. Objectionable trees and growths were removed and the grounds were all gone over and leveled up, monuments and tombstones were placed in proper condition, old fences were removed and a general cleaning was undertaken. Since that time the cemetery has been kept in a thoroughly good condition and is a credit to the association. There are few burials there of late years as the space is limited, but the management is able to care for all burials requested.

The board of trustees was not long ago increased from six to nine, and a reorganization was made necessary owing to deaths and removals. The present board consists of John McTucker, C. M. Holmes, W. W. Watson, M. C. Brown, C. B. Dabney, O. L. Fitch, W. N. Hart, Thos. O'Brien and G. M. McClain.



Barry Adage Employes and Old Friends.

## THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD.

The year 1858 witnessed unusual activity among the laboring classes of Pike County. That was the year the building of the Hannibal & Naples Railroad began. While I was too young to personally remember much about it, I have heard the story so often related that it is familiar to me. Men and teams in big numbers were employed on the grading, trestle work and culvert work and bridge abutments. The way the work was done at that time it was a big job in any line of it.

The contractors who had charge of the work met with heavy financial loss by the failure of the railroad organization before the road was completed. For about eleven years the suspended job remained in that incomplete condition. In the mean time the trestles rotted and the embankments washed away by the showers and the elements. About the only part of the work that remained intact were the bridge abutments; they were in good condition when a new company was formed afterward and have ever since been in use.

While the railroad affairs continued in this demoralized condition, Hon. Scott Wike, who had been the attorney for the company, levied upon the property, right of way and all, and had it sold to pay his fees. The property was bought in by Mr. Wike for \$1,000. He was instrumental in organizing a new corporation that took over the unfinished road and carried the project to completion. This was accomplished in 1869. When the last rail was laid on the section that included Barry station, and the first train came into this place from Hannibal there was an immense crowd there to witness it. Of course I was among the throng of spectators, and added my voice to the volume of noise. The train consisted of one passenger car, a baggage car and the Banty engine. The engineer in charge was Add Clark, who

for many years after had a regular run on the road and the first conductor was Jack Harris, who also had a regular run for years. We certainly gave the train men and other officials who had assembled to witness the ceremony, a warm reception.

The Hannibal & Naples railroad began at East Hannibal and extended to the Illinois river opposite Naples, where Valley City is now. The Illinois was soon afterwards bridged and the railroad was built east to Jacksonville. The Northern Cross railroad was the first railroad built in Illinois, and was a part of the line between Jacksonville and Naples. Both branches were afterward merged into the Wabash St. Louis and Pacific system, now known as the Wabash Railway and they are important parts of that great system. Barry is one of the good stations on this line. L. E. Hancock is the agent here.

## COUNTY SEAT CONTEST.

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Barry made two unsuccessful attempts to remove the county seat from Pittsfield to this city. The first contest was in 1842 or 1844. Little of that campaign is now known further than that it was a failure. All the participants or at least nearly all of them are gone and have left no history to guide us.

In 1893 an earnest effort was made in the same direction. Of that I am fully informed as I was one of the principal conspirators. Some of the others I may name as taking leading parts were John Weber, Major E. A. Crandall, Mike Lane, Wm. Bright, Harry Hollembeak and C. H. Ware. We worked up plenty of enthusiasm and did a lot of campaigning. The inducement we offered for changing the seat of the county was that the citizens of Barry would donate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of building the new court house, thus saving the county that much expense, as the old court house had been condemned and a new one had to be built. To carry out the good faith of our offer we had the citizens of our locality subscribe to and execute a bond for the sum promised. This bond was a bona fide one, and was signed by many citizens who were able to meet the requirements in case of our success.

When the merchants and other citizens of Pittsfield became aware of our offer and the substantial backing we gave they were very much alarmed and organized for an active campaign. Next they countered with the same proposition, and promised the same amount. An election was held to decide the matter, and we lost out by a large majority. They decided to leave the county seat where it was.

Our folks had a fine time stirring up things in the contest, and saved the county the cost of the new court house. That was our compensation for all we had.



C. I. SWAN.



My Last Days of Schooling  
1873

## CITY WATER SYSTEM.

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Among other improvements that I had the pleasure of helping promote is the present water system. It was in 1877 that some of our citizens conceived the idea of trying for some sort of a water system for our city. A flowing well was generally advocated, something that would bring the water to the surface without labor or expense. This was talked up until a vote was finally taken on the proposition. The electors decided in favor of it, the well was authorized and bonds to the amount of ten thousand dollars were issued to meet the expenses. A contract was entered into between the city council and a Chicago firm of drillers named Marrs & Miller. As soon as the quipment could be gotten here set up the drilling began. It was a slow job, and every now and then the drills would get lodged or drop to the bottom of the well. Nearly the whole year was occupied with the drilling, but it was finally completed. The depth was 2510 feet, and the well was located on the public park. There was disappointment that it was not a flowing well, but a mineral well. Except for fire purposes or watering live stock it was of little benefit.

For those purposes the well served for thirty odd years. Then it began to weaken and play out, and at the same time the pump and equipment showed the worse of the wear. The well was ready for abandonment.

About 1922 another agitation started for a better and more modern water system. It was decided the big tank, holding 36,000 gallons, could be used. All the talk then was for the city to secure a spring near town that could be relied on for water for both family use and fire purposes; build a reservoir that would hold 100,000 gallons of water, put in a large electrical pump and force the water through mains to the standpipe in the park, from which it could be distributed to all parts of the city if additions were

made to the mains. Before taking definite action in the matter the city officials began to investigate the probability of securing a spring by lease that was known for its purity and strength. Two springs were in the public mind, one on the Greene place in the edge of town and one on some pasture land that I owned. My spring was known as the old Petty spring. Both were located about one and one-quarter miles out of town. Negotiations were opened for the Greene contract first, but there was a hitch in the negotiations and the proceedings were stopped. After that the city officials approached me for the use of the Petty spring. Their proposition was to furnish water for my family and the family of my son Bret B. Watson, in return for a lease of the spring and ground for the location of the reservoir and pump house. It was further on that an agreement was reached that I should have water for other dwellings I owned by paying the cost of the pumping. A vote on the proposition was taken and it carried. Next a contract was entered into with a St. Louis firm to build the entire system for \$28,000, which was remarkably low for the amount of the material and putting in the system. To-day it would cost three times as much.

The contract was completed promptly and in a good manner. Bonds were issued to pay the expenses. These bonds are now nearly all paid. No citizen can be recognized that regrets the investment. To-day the water is distributed all over the city. The whole system has proven a wonderful success. I have always been glad that I could be of service to the community in the way I did. I can hardly say I approve the manner the city council did in repudiating the verbal contract to furnish water for my tenant houses at the cost of pumping. That was their style of standing by their agreements.

## POLITICS AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

Under this heading, as in several others in this volume, I am giving my own experiences as I have entered different lines from other members of the family. Politics and political affairs generally have always had an attraction for me. From my youth up and long before I was of voting age I took interest in elections. In most cases a boy's trend can be attributed to his father's influence, but not so with me, as my father died before I was six years of age. Rather am I inclined to credit my sister, Mary Ann Jessie Watson with the formation of what political views I acquired.

After our father arrived in this country he affiliated with the Whig party. At the formation of the Republican party in 1856, he went to that party on the issue of the abolition of slavery, which at that time agitated the country, and after that he advocated those principles until he passed away.

The first great campaign the Republican party figured it was unsuccessful, but in 1860, with the great Abraham Lincoln as a candidate for president and Hamlin for vice president the party carried the election in a red hot campaign. The second campaign in 1864, which was another desperate campaign, Lincoln again triumphed. It was in that contest that our sister embarked in politics by campaigning in the glee club known as the Wideawakes. I was old enough to remember those stirring times. Our sister had a good voice, was full of life and enthusiastic and she found pleasure in the round of demonstrations and meetings the glee club took part in.

The result of the 1860 campaign made our sister a strong party advocate, even if she could not vote, and she saw to it that we boys, all younger than she, were started out in her way of thinking. As a result of her efforts all the family advocated the principals of the Republican party, and so continued through life.

None of our family aspired to political office, unless it would be myself, and I never cared for an office that I could get, and probably never could get one that I cared for. Two fairly good offices were offered me during my time; they were deputy revenue collector and postmaster of Barry, but I declined both. I was once a candidate on a political ticket for mayor of Barry, and won out, but that is the only time for me, and neither of my brothers were ever candidates for political office.

In the campaign of 1868, the Republicans had as candidates for President and Vice President, Gen. U. S. Grant and Schuyler Colfax. The opposing candidates were Horatio Seymour and Francis G. Blair. The election proved a landslide for Grant and Colfax. In later years I had the honor of bringing Mr. Colfax to Barry for a lecture, and thus formed his acquaintance.

For the next campaign Gen. Grant was again a candidate and had as a running mate Henry Wilson of Massachusetts. They developed considerable opposition over appointments, treaties, etc., during the first administration of Gen. Grant and this opposition gathered force as the campaign continued, until a group of disgruntled Republicans held a convention at Philadelphia and nominated what they called a Liberal Republican ticket composed of Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune and a strong republican heretofore, as the candidate for President and B. Gratz Brown of Missouri for Vice President. In that campaign the Democrats were badly disorganized and they endorsed the latter ticket instead of nominating one of their own party. Grant and Wilson were elected. His defeat told on Mr. Greeley and he did not live long after the election.

The election of 1876 developed a peculiar and unsatisfied situation. The candidates were Rutherford B. Hayes for President and Wm. A. Wheeler for Vice President on the Republican ticket, and on the Democrat ticket were Samuel J. Tilden and Thomas A. Hendricks. The election was very close and the electoral votes of three or four southern states and one elect

oral vote of Oregon were disputed. The contest finally fell to a commission composed of fifteen United States judges and senators for their decision, who by a vote of eight to seven awarded the election to Hayes and Wheeler. A hue and cry was raised by the Democrats after this decision and there was ill feeling for years between the parties over this result. Hayes really made a very good president.

The first national campaign in which I took part was that of 1880, soon after I attained voting age. In that contest the candidates were James A. Garfield and Chester A. Arthur against Wm. S. Hancock and Wm. H. English. After an active campaign the Republicans won a decisive victory. President Garfield was a talented gentleman and entered upon his duties with promise of great success, but he was stricken with an assassin's bullet in Washington City after only a brief service. He died Sept. 19, 1881. I had become a special admirer of the President and attended his funeral at Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 26, 1881.

Vice President Arthur succeeded to the presidency and filled out the term with credit to himself and the country.

The Republicans met their first defeat for years in the campaign of 1884, when their candidates were James G. Blaine and John A. Logan, and the opposition candidates were Grover Cleveland and Thos. A. Hendricks. Blaine was one of the brightest men in the party, but he had antagonized many of his party and lost their votes, being defeated by a few hundred votes. His aggressiveness had caused his undoing at the height of his fame. The result of the election was so close that it took several days to decide who was elected. Cleveland for governor had carried New York by 190,000 votes, but barely won by a plurality this time of 1,053.

As the years advanced my interest in politics increased and I became very energetic in national campaigns as well as state contests from that time to date.

When the campaign of 1888 came on, with a view to learning the ins and outs of the political affairs I became a candidate for alternate delegate to the national convention which that year was held

in Chicago. The delegates and alternates were chosen by conventions then, and I made a combination with Col. W. L. Distin of Quincy, who wished to go as a delegate. We were both successful. That year was my first in a national convention. It was a very exciting contest and I was thrilled. I had attended the state and county conventions before going to the national, and I found they were all operated along about the same lines, only a more prominent class of politicians were sent to the state than the county convention and a still higher class to the national convention. I fully appreciated the lesson I learned. I had an opportunity to meet and form the acquaintance of men high in the party councils, that was very gratifying to me, such men as Chauncey M. Depew, Wm. McKinley, James E. Watson, Henry M. Teller, Theodore Roosevelt, Judge Gresham, Joseph G. Cannon, and many other men prominent in party affairs of that day.

The leading candidates for President in 1888 were Benj. Harrison, Judge Gresham and John Sherman and Wm. B. Allison. Harrison was nominated after long and tedious balloting, and Levi P. Morton of New York was nominated for vice president. The Democratic convention chose Grover Cleveland and Adlai E. Stephenson as their candidates. The campaign was hard fought, but the Republicans won out triumphantly.

After this campaign the Barry Republicans felt they were entitled to some office under the administration. Harry Hollenbeck wanted an appointment as deputy revenue collector. We went after it and were successful. He made a good officer and was a credit to us.

The national candidates in 1892 were the same as in 1884, but that year the election was reversed and the Democrats won. Maj. E. A. Crandall went to the convention as a delegate, and I had the opportunity of returning the favor he paid me when I was a candidate.

My next experience of moment was in 1896, when Wm. McKinley and Garret A. Hobart were the nominees. At that convention, which was held at St. Louis, I was an assistant sergeant at arms, and my duties at the time was to get as many of our fellows into the



Margaret at Seven.

convention as possible. I did my full duty in that line and landed a lot of them. The convention was a very turbulent and exciting kind. The great issue before it was "sound money," which was raised to offset the cry of Wm. J. Bryan of "free silver at the ratio of sixteen to one," which at the Democratic convention was carried through by Mr. Bryan and he received the nomination as that result. These were the issues of the two conventions and they were the dominant issues of the election campaign. Both parties divided over them. McKinley dominated the Republican convention. He took the opposite position from Bryan, and several of the western states stood against his nomination, even to the extent of leaving the floor of the convention when the platform was adopted including the sound money clause. The program to nominate McKinley and Hobart was carried out, but with many misgivings on the part of the remaining delegates. As I sat there and saw this performance My heart sank within me and I was ready to admit defeat then and there.

The campaign that followed was certainly a remarkable one. Every voter turned an orator and held his arguments from his favorite quarters; ill feeling was rife among former friends; large and frequent meetings were held everywhere, and the campaign continued loud and boisterous. Parades of many sorts were the order. Free silver Republicans espoused the Democratic cause and sound money Democrats the Republican cause. Such a mix up in politics had never been known before in my time. Pike county was a Bryan stronghold and Barry was part of it.

I added my energy to the sound money cause and participated in the demonstrations in our section, but I was doubtful of the outcome until the last of the campaign, when I attended a monster demonstration in Chicago. In that city it seemed that everybody was for McKinley. Chicago simply outdid itself in that parade. The American flag was the party's emblem the year and the streets there were literally lined with them. When I left Chicago my confidence in the election had been fully restored. The guess was right; McKinley and Hobart swept the country.

It was a wonderful victory. Our ratification was in keeping with the enthusiasm of the campaign. Mr. McKinley proved a strong president and was beloved by friend and foe alike.

At the next election the candidates were McKinley and Roosevelt, Mr. Hobart having died in the mean time. Bryan and English were nominated by the Democrats. The Republicans were again successful, but poor McKinley, like Lincoln and Garfield, was shot down by an assassin and died at Buffalo, N.Y., and the term was finished by Roosevelt.

The 1904 campaign was another very active one, the candidates being Roosevelt and Fairbanks vs. Parker and Davis. Roosevelt and Fairbanks won and gave an excellent administration. Theodore Roosevelt was a dashing impulsive fellow of middle age, and when he succeeded to the presidency there was a feeling on the part of many that he would stir up strife and turmoil would follow, causing an unpopular administration. Nothing like that happened. He was careful in his appointments and conservative in his actions, giving an administration that met with the hearty endorsement of the voters when he came up for re-election. The free silver issue was a dead one by that time and has not been heard from since.

Roosevelt was also shot by an attempted assassin at Milwaukee, Wis., but survived the attack and lived for several years after. He never ceased his aggressiveness, however, until he died.

The campaign of 1912 was a very disastrous one for the Republicans. It was that year a fight between Theo. Roosevelt and Wm. H. Taft took place, in which each strove for supremacy. These men had been fast friends. When Roosevelt was president he had Taft for his secretary of war, and when Roosevelt retired he chose Taft for his successor in the 1908 campaign, and he was nominated and elected. Then something happened between them that caused a strained relation. When the 1912 contest came on Taft aspired to succeed himself as president. Roosevelt opposed him and tried to head him off. The contest became acrimonious, and Roosevelt became a candidate himself but although he received the delegations from many of the strong republican states

he did not receive enough delegates to defeat his rival in the convention.

I was a delegate from the 20th Illinois district in that convention and was instructed for Roosevelt, the same as other delegates from this state were, although I was not especially taken with the attitude of the ex-president. Roosevelt was at the convention in person to look after his interests. He appeared before the Illinois delegation several times to keep them in line and on two occasions delivered addresses to us. He was successful in holding the delegates so long as he was before the convention. There came a time, however, when he saw defeat staring him and he lost control of his feelings and made demands that were resented by some of the delegates. One demand was that the delegates refrain from voting on a certain ballot, but if they insisted on voting they must vote for him. That dictation aroused considerable opposition to him, as there were those who wished to bring into the voting a new candidate or two with the hope of nominating him and thus keep out of the row. It was the belief of many at that point that Gov. Hadley of Missouri could be nominated, as he was a popular gentleman and was not connected with the quarrel. Roosevelt would not hear to any such action and the balloting continued until Taft was nominated. James S. Sherman of New York was named as the candidate for vice president.

The convention adjourned with a divided party, and bitter resentment was harbored by the followers of Roosevelt. Instead of the feeling dying down it increased, with the result that an independent Republican convention was held in Chicago in a few days and a ticket composed of Roosevelt and Governor Johnson of California was nominated. Woodrow Wilson and Thos. J. Marshall were nominated by the Democrats. The campaign developed into a three-cornered contest that was bitter and relentless. Wilson and Marshall were elected over the divided party candidates; Roosevelt and Johnson came in second and Taft and Sherman were badly beaten. Roosevelt had accomplished his purpose.

It was the impression among the politicians that the Republicans were hopelessly divided, and could not again be united. Fortunately wise counsel prevailed, and by the time the 1916 campaign came on a better feeling existed. Compromise candidates in the persons of Chas. E. Hughes of New York and Hon. Chas. W. Fairbanks of Indiana were nominated, while Wilson and Marshall were renominated by the Democrats. We were in the middle of the world war then and the opposition cry of "Wilson kept us out of war" had its effect and his ticket was elected. The next few months we landed into the world war.

I was on the ticket for presidential elector at the election in 1920, when Warren J. Harding and Calvin Coolidge were the Republican candidates for president and vice president, and James M. Cox of Ohio and Franklin Roosevelt of New York were the opposition candidates. Harding proved to be a popular candidate despite the mudslinging of Cox and his ticket was elected by an immense majority. My vote for presidential elector was 1416987, and was well up with the head winners on our ticket. The certificate received from Gov. Lowden has been preserved as a precious document. I was present at the official meeting of the electors of our state at Springfield, in January, 1921, and had the supreme pleasure of actually voting for a president and vice president. Mr. Harding died after a couple of years in office, while on a visit to San Francisco, Cal. Calvin Coolidge was then installed as president.

At the convention of 1924, Calvin Coolidge was renominated and had as a running mate Chas. Gates Dawes of Chicago. Their election was easily accomplished, as they had as opponents John W. Davis of West Virginia and Franklin Roosevelt of New York, who tried it again. Davis was a good man, but turned out to be a poor candidate as he adopted the same villifying tactics that Cox had and met with the same fate. That sort of campaigning won't win with sensible people. From the days of Lincoln to the

days of Coolidge in nearly every campaign reckless personalities have been indulged in by the opposition. It would appear to be their stock in trade, but as often as they have been defeated by it we would think they would adopt some other tactic.

The contest of 1928, just concluded, was out of the ordinary. Candidates for the nominations for office, national, state and county, started out in due season on both sides, especially on our side. It was extremely active. The candidates nationally were Herbert Hoover, Frank O. Lowden, James E. Watson, Charles Curtis and George W. Morris. It was the field against Hoover from the start, and in the convention it was the same thing. It was a losing game however, and Hoover was nominated on the first ballot. Curtis was chosen as his mate on the ticket. All the former candidates except Lowden laid aside their differences and entered the campaign for the successful nominees.

The Democrats held their convention at Houston, Texas, later in June. Alfred E. Smith of New York dominated that body and was nominated on the first ballot. He was given as a running mate, Joseph G. Robinson of Arkansas.

The first act of Smith after being nominated was to repudiate the prohibition plank of the platform and come out against the Volstead amendment to the constitution. The anti-saloon issue had been the one prominent one before the convention and this action on the part of the candidate at once created confusion and opposition by the dry members of the party. With others Smith's action was regarded as very catchy. The campaign that followed caused a shifting of voters from each side to the other, old party adherents going over to the other side, making it a badly mixed campaign. In the south, especially the Democrats were badly torn up, and the anti-Smith Democrats made a remarkable showing. States of the solid south that never had gone Republican before went strongly for Hoover and Curtis. The campaign of our candidates was conducted on a gentlemanly basis, but as usual the other side made

their usual mud-slinging style of a contest and it again failed. Smith in his campaign visited the large cities nearly altogether, as it was in the places of large population he expected to get his majorities. He did draw immense crowds. Hoover on the other hand made very few speeches and did not indulge in personalities. The election showed how the voters looked at such practices. Smith was the worse beat candidate that ever made the race. Out of the forty-eight states he only captured votes of eight states, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Louisiana and Arkansas, and Georgia. Hoover received 444 electoral votes to Smith's 87.

The Democrats had no heart in the campaign in Illinois, while the other side put up a very active contest. About all they tried to elect was Roy Thompson their candidate for governor, and they failed in that by 350,000 majority. L. L. Emmerson for governor and all the rest of the state candidates on our ticket were elected by handsome majorities.

The state primary campaign was about the liveliest political battle we have had in years. The principal fight was on governor, Gov. Small was a candidate for renomination. There has been strong feeling against him for several years, but he had such a strong machine that it was hard to dislodge him from the political crib. In the 1928 campaign he had as an opponent L. L. Emmerson, who has held the office of secretary of state for two or three terms. He is a clean honorable gentleman and when he declared himself a candidate the voters over the entire state knew there would be something doing. I was in California at the time of his announcement, and as he is a good friend of mine I was glad to receive word from him that he hoped I would be able to get home in time to assist in his candidacy. I at once prepared to return to Illinois, and arrived home April 1st, ten days before the primary was to take place.



Margaret



Hadge Sellers and Margaret.

I at once entered into the contest and had the happy privilege of giving material aid to my long time friend. Not only were we able to give him a rousing vote in Barry, but also in the Democratic county of Pike. He was triumphantly elected as the party candidate. Other state candidates in whom I was interested were Richard Yates for congressman at large, Fred Sterling for lieutenant governor, and Henry Scarborough for member of the legislature. all of whom except Richard Yates were nominated. While he lost out at the primary, he was afterward appointed as the candidate when Henry R. Rathbone, one of the successful candidates died. I was also strong for Mrs. Rose Brooks for circuit clerk of Pike county. Our whole state ticket went through with a whoop and Mrs. Brooks won out in the county, so I was quite well pleased with the results.

Illinois state political affairs are run on almost the same plan as national conventions, etc. There are objections to the primary system, but it is an improvement over the old way of nominating candidates. Location and nationality, which used to cut such a figure in conventions, is not much considered under the primary. The candidate that receives the most votes is nominated, regardless of whether he has received the majority or not. By the convention system it requires a majority vote to nominate.

I have attended many state conventions as well as county conventions so the details are very familiar to me. For this reason my acquaintance among the politicians has been extensive in past years. I have also known many politicians of the opposite party, having attended their state and county conventions occasionally. By this means I came to be acquainted with Uncle Joe Cannon, John R. Tanner, Richard J. Oglesby, Shelby M. Cullom, Wm. Lorimer, Chas. P. Hitch, Martin B. Madden, Richard Yates, A. J. Hopkins, Len Small, Henry L. Hertz, Andrew Russel

Wm. E. Mason, Frank O. Lowden, Chas. S. Deneen, and many others. These are all old timers and quite a few of them are now off the scene of action. In addition to these I also hav an acquaintance with a lot of young fellows of to-day.

Of the number listed, four held the office of governor and I was especially interested in them, having held the office of trustee of the state institution for the deaf, under three of them, Richard Yates, Chas. S. Deneen and Frank O. Lowden, all of whom I did work in the elections.

I managed the Yates campaign in Pike county in 1900 and 1904, for the nomination, and in 1900 in the election, for governor. In those years I was chairman of the county central committee. Those campaigns were conducted under the convention style of nominating. There was little or no contest necessary for delegates in 1900, as all the county politicians of our party were for Yates that year, but when he came up for renomination it was different and there was much opposition, caused principally by the failure of applicants for office not receiving the recognition from the governor they had expected. Other contestants for the county delegates were Attorney General Hamlin and Col. Warner, member of congress. I conducted the campaign entirely outside of the county seat, and worked quietly but systematically, and when the county convention took place we had two thirds of the convention for Yates. As a compliment to my friend Col. Mathews I had him elected chairman of the meeting and placed on the state delegation. I headed the delegation and other members were H. D. L. Grigsby, Jack Kendrick, M. T. Stauffer, John Harbourn, Elliott Baker, and Jas. Farrand, a strong delegation that met the issues squarely and fairly.

The state convention was the one known as the deadlock. We were in session for three weeks, and finally had to compromise on Chas. S. Deneen, one of the minor candidates of the convention. Yates had about five hundred delegates, not quite half

of the convention, Frank O. Lowden, Attorney General Hamlin and Col. Warner, being the other ~~contenders~~. Yates had about five hundred delegates, nearly but not quite enough to nominate. After a struggle such as had not been seen in our state for years, if ever before, the compromise took place, and thus ended the dead lock. It will be remembered by politicians for many years to come. Deneen was re-elected at the close of his term as governor, and following him Frank O. Lowden was elected.

All four of the governors recognized me as leader of a dominating element of our county, Tanner, Yates, Deneen and Lowden, and I was generally consulted on county appointments to be made. Yates insisted on giving me recognition with a position under him, but I refused anything that would take me away from home, having too many interests to leave. Years before he offered me a position as deputy collector of internal revenue for the 8th Illinois district, when he was collector, and I declined the offer for the same reason. Gov. Yates finally appointed me one of three trustees of the state school for the deaf, without consulting me. That appointment was not objectionable as it did not interfere with my other affairs. I held the position through Yates term and both terms of Deneen, or until the new law was passed placing the institution under a board of control, nine years all told. Most of those days I was chairman of the board. Other trustees were F. H. Wemple of Waverly and C. L. King of Paxton. we got along fine together and conducted the business of the institution without friction. We also were privileged to take some pleasure trips together.

For twenty years or more I have held the post of precinct committeeman of district #2, of Barry township, This took me into county and state politics, more or less. I stepped out of the office in 1927, but when the 1928 campaign came on and I had several friends who were candidates I took charge.

There is plenty of work for a precinct committeeman if he does his duty. I always tried to fulfill my obligations to the party, and to the candidates, and I presume that is why I was retained year after year without solicitation on my part. Naturally I took part in all the elections, primaries and all.

One thing I kept clear of being a candidate for offices. My name was never on a political ticket but once and that was for the office of mayor of Barry. I did not aspire to the office at that time, but a party of friends declared I had been making candidates long enough and must now take a dose of my own medicine. I accepted the terms and went after the office. Mr. E. W. Blades was my opponent. He was an old wheel horse of the local democratic party and a good friend of mine. As he had the majority back of him I thought of course he would be elected. We had a lively campaign, and I won out by 32 votes.

It was under my administration as mayor that the cement sidewalks were introduced. The town had previous to that depended entirely on board walks and they had become dilapidated and dangerous in places. There was not enough money in the city treasury to rebuild them decently, hence I induced the city council to pass an ordinance requiring that all walks built in the future must be either of concrete or brick. The mayor and aldermen set the example and built their own walks of concrete. Other citizens followed suit and the movement was taken up generally by our citizens in all parts of town, and all walks were built at the property owner's expense. The result was that in a few years not a wooden walk was to be seen in our city.

Both before and since I served as mayor I was a member of the city council, and served two years as member of the board of education, one year the president of the board. I feel that I have served my share of time for the public.

The greatest innovation in the political campaign of 1928 was the use made of the radio. It was the first campaign in which the radio came into general use. The United States was divided into two divisions and each had "hook ups" of such extent they covered absolutely every nook and quarter of the nation. The speeches of both candidates for president and vice president and other leading party orators were plainly heard by millions of citizens all through the campaign. Not only the national candidates were heard, but state candidates also had access to the air with their speeches and other publicity matters. Then at the inaugural ceremonies of all the candidates was the proceedings sent over the air.

These movements were complete successes, and the politicians were enabled to reach thousands who had no other means of communication. The natural result of these new features was to limit public meetings, and fewer meetings were held than in any campaign in modern times.

I had the privilege of "listening in" on many of the speeches of candidates of both parties, and also of hearing the full program of the national and our own state ceremonies. The radio service on those occasions with us at least was first-class. On the day of the national inauguration we had a company numbering several of our neighbors to hear those ceremonies and all enjoyed the hours immensely. To those interested in political affairs it was a rare treat.



Margaret and "Happy" Dog.

## GREAT WARS OF OUR TIME.

In our days the United States have participated in three great wars--the war of the Rebellion, the Spanish American war and the World war.

### The Civil War.

The war of the Rebellion or Civil war was confined to our own people. It was the result of the slavery of colored people in the southern states, a condition that prevailed from an early period in the history of these states until the year 1860 or 1861. The abolition of slavery was for years before the war a mighty issue between the north and the south. The Lincoln campaign was fought and won on it. It was like a house divided against itself, with sympathizers for the opposite sides in each section.

I was so young at the time of the first outbreak that I could hardly remember many particulars of the conflict, but the excitement from it so impressed me that it has never been erased from my memory. Another thing that was closely connected with it was the death of our father, which occurred at the breaking out of the war.

Barry community was loyal to the union and stood steadfastly for its cause. It was not so with all the sections of Pike county, but generally speaking the county stood ready to uphold the government. Illinois especially the northern section, was a hotbed of unionism. Several regiments were raised in the state and the war produced some great military geniuses--Grant, Logan, Sheridan, and a host of others.

Pike county did its full share in contributing to the union forces. One whole regiment--Ninety-ninth--was raised in the county, and parts of several others. Company D of the Ninety-ninth was made up of Barry men. Our town also contributed officers to other regiments, the Sixteenth, Twenty-eighth, and others. There were no more gallant and brave soldiers than Col. A. C. Mathews, Maj. E. A. Crandall, Capt. Elisha

Hurt, Capt. Chas. H. Hurt, Capt. M. D. Massie and Capt. H. L. Hadsell, all well known citizens of other years. Many others could be named, most of whom returned to take up the duties of civil life.

The Civil war lasted four years, from 1861 to 1865, and during those years and for years after the scars of battle had disappeared there were ill feeling and revenge apparent. Although victory was finally won by the union forces the "rebel" soldiers and their sympathizers were badly disgruntled and harbored hatred until many years after when the older generation largely had disappeared. The assassination of President Lincoln in 1865 as he was entering upon his second term added to northern indignation.

Of the many Barry citizens who lost their lives in the great conflict the remains of some of them were brought home for burial. I well remember some of the tragic funerals that took place, and the long processions of teams and wagons that conveyed the mourners to the last resting place of the dead. Even at my age then I felt the solemnity of the services.

Ever since the war the veterans have held their reunions in Barry. At one time there was a strong lodge of the Grand Army of the Republic. Their ranks now are thin and the lodge has been abandoned. Few of the veterans are left, not over a dozen at most, but they are still occupying places of affection in our hearts for their efforts in behalf of the preservation of the union. We all remember how the people at home were terrified when the hard battles were on and how eager for news from the front that was so slow in reaching town. The monument in the public park is a lasting testimony to their love and devotion.

#### THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

The Spanish-American war was not long drawn out, but was decisive. It took place in 1898. Spain had for years mistreated citizens of its possessions--Cuba, Porto Rico, Phillipine Islands, etc.--with outrages

that developed into savagery. The treatment of the Cubans, especially, was obnoxious to the Americans, as they are our near neighbors. Appeals were made by our country for an abatement of the brutality. A controversy followed and to impress the seriousness of it upon the Spanish rulers, warships were sent to Cuba by our authorities. Among the warships was the Maine, one of our most favored ships. It was loaded with sailors and as it lay peacefully in Havana harbor one night the great ship with its load of human freight was suddenly blown up and destroyed, killing nearly all the men on board. Like a prairie fire a wave of indignation swept over our country, and the war was soon on. Battles on land and sea followed in rapid succession, and our forces won right and left. Spain was conquered and her possessions taken from her and placed under the guardianship of the friendly nation that had relieved them from their troubles. All these countrys have since enjoyed peace and prosperity.

Pike county did not send many men to this war, but those who did go gave a good account of themselves. A company was organized in Barry for the war, but it did not need to go. Harry Hollenbeck and Doug. Parke were instrumental in the organization of it and were expected to have been of the officers corps.

#### THE WORLD WAR.

It is conceded that the World War was the greatest of all time. More countries were involved and more men fought the battles than ever before. The losses were terrible on both sides. Thousands of lives were sacrificed and millions of dollars worth of property was destroyed. Ancient history records some great conflicts, but I doubt if any of them from the ingenuity displayed or the means of slaughter employed ever equalled the war of 1914-18.

Accounts agree that disagreements among kindsmen-- King George of England, Czar Nicolas of Russia and Em-

peror William of Germany--were indirectly responsible for the conflict that startled the world. Other nations took sides in the squabble and were drawn into the war. Austria favored Germany, and France, Belgium, Russia, and other countries favored England. The military department of Germany was highly developed, more in fact than that of any other country, and no one country could compete with her. Her soldiers overran Belgium first and nearly wiped out her military strength; destroyed her castles, cathedrals and other beloved institutions, and her manufacturers. France and England went to Belgium's rescue, but were not equal to the fighting qualities of Germany. Other countries reinforced the allies, and Austria went to the assistance of Germany. These armies invaded France and terrified her citizens with long distance firing on Paris. Calls for aid of the United States were answered and accepted. This country sent a million and a half men into the midst of the fray, three thousands miles away.

The dangers of crossing the Atlantic ocean was almost equal to the land engagements. Submarines ruled the waters, and it was found necessary to send convoys with naval vessels and other craft to insure the safety of them. Several vessels were sunk by these submarines, among the number being the celebrated passenger ship, Luciatania, which carried to the bottom of the sea a full load of citizens who were hastening to leave the war zone.

The arrival of the United States forces vastly aided the allies, and revived their broken spirits. Our men took part in some of the sanguinary battles and were instrumental in bringing the war to a rapid and complete ending. The armistice took place on Nov. 11, 1918, and brought relief to all the nations whether they were engaged in the conflict or not. America rejoiced as she had seldom done before. The sad part of it was that thousands of our brave sons fell on foreign soil. The best we could do was to pay homage to them in a sanctified and holy manner. That we did.

Locally, the World War had a tremendously telling effect, as it did everywhere else in our country. Our people hardly knew what it was all about, nor how to take it. The food restrictions, limiting the use of

sugar, flour, bread and fats of all kinds was keenly felt, but when the call for volunteers was made there was light response, causing a general order for a full draft of all able bodied young men from 18 to 45 years, the effect was appalling.

Registration places were announced the country over, in Barry among the rest of places, and the response was prompt and complete. Then a county exemption board was organized at the county seat, composed of Dr. Shastid, A. C. Kiser, of Pittsfield and N. R. Davis of Barry, whose duty it was to pass on the soldier candidates that presented themselves for examination. Then came the questionnaires that all the registrants had to fill out and forward to the national war department.

I was one of the county committee appointed by the war department to solicit sales for the different liberty bonds and treasury certificates. Others from our town were similarly engaged, and among us we disposed of something like a million dollars worth of these securities in our locality; some were taken after much urging and threats, others took them willingly, and still others looked upon the securities as good investments as they relieved them of tax assessments so much objected to.

Filling out the questionnaires was quite a job. I had seventy-five of them to fill, and the office was full of young men and women most of the time for three or four weeks. It was a very serious time for the young men, but worse for the young wives, who had visions of their husbands in the trenches of France, or probably slain in battle. They plainly showed their grief. I saw much of the seamy side of life during those few weeks. The men were reluctant in answering the questions for fear of committing themselves unguardedly or in a manner that would operate against them, and often the wives tried to answer for them. All had to give their age, condition of health, etc., and this was all after the registration and when each young man had received his number. Then came the drawing for those to be called into service. How the lists were scanned in the daily papers by the registrants and their relatives and friends.

Generally single men were recommended for service first and few of those with families or simply with wives had to go at all. Our son Bret had to register and received a number, but as he had a wife and two children to support he was never called, much to the relief of us all.

Those ordered to report for duty went first before the examining board for observance and examination, and a number were found with ailments of various natures and were rejected. Those passing the examination were forwarded to one of the cantonments, generally to Camp Taylor, Kentucky, from our county. Thirty or more of our boys were sent across the water and participated in the engagements in France, but most of them were left at the contonments in this country, waiting to be called over seas, which call never came. Five of the Barry boys paid the supreme price. Cecil Cunningham and Harry Barkley met their fate in the trenches in France, Clarence Hays died in a hospital in Pennsylvania, Fred Deiterd died at a hospital in France, and Earl Weisanburger went down to a watery grave in a submarine accident off the coast of Ireland.

The soldiers who survived and returned home at the close of the war received a hearty welcome from our citizens. They had served their country well and were entitled to the honors due valient soldiers.



**Just Another of Margaret.**

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND ROAD BUILDING.

When my attention was called to the Barry Chamber of Commerce I had no conception of the possibilities of the organization as an assistance to the commercial life of our city. I had been a member of the organization for several years, but had in reality paid little attention to it. Then I was elected to the presidency, and when I began to investigate the situation I began to see the matter in a clearer light. I soon found that there are many ways it can be of service to the community, and especially to the merchants. One of the most promising fields is the good roads movement.

The road improvement had barely started when I entered upon the duties of my office. Not personally in the habit of traveling the public highways a great deal, I had not given the movement consideration it deserved. After the \$60,000,000 hard roads bond issue act was passed by the state legislature and the law gone into effect did the actual work of building begin. It was then that I realized "Illinois was to be lifted out of the mud." That is literally what has happened.

The old system of plowing and scraping the roads every year or two was a losing proposition, there was no permanency to it. Our roads were very bad at times in the winter and spring months, and sometimes were almost impassable. In consequence the new hard road system was everywhere hailed with delight by the citizens.

Pike county was included in the new road building system and Barry was placed on one of the main routes -#36, extending from Carthage to Jacksonville via Quincy, Barry, Winchester and Pittsfield. Through a neglection of some-body this route was one of the last to receive attention under the first bond issue. There was a county committee appointed to look

after the interests of our county, but after their own interests were conserved they forgot all about the other routes. The sections in the western part of the county were left for the people of their own locality to attend to. This situation existed for two years and nothing was done. Surveys were ordered and finished by the highway commission, but that was as far as the improvements got at that time, although the commission was ready to go ahead with their part of it as soon as the rights of way were secured. It was apparent that if anything was to be done I as president of the Chamber of Commerce was to make the move.

I soon learned the surveys were not satisfactory to those along the route, as they crossed valuable tracts of land and town lots. This meant trouble for the local committee as the state required them to obtain these rights of way before letting contracts for the grading or pavement work. The result was that no person cared to invest his money in the proposition. Then the route through our city as outlined skirted on the south side of the Wabash railway, far away from the business part of town. On this account no one seemed to favor it. For the next year or two no attention was paid to the road matter.

Thus it was apparent that if anything was to be done it was time to go at it. I immediately appointed a road committee, of which I was a member, and we set about getting acquainted with the state officials and trying to solve the difficulties involved. We soon found it advisable to ask for a new survey through town and at several points along the three sections we had sponsored. Montimer street is in the center of Barry and is one of the longest streets. We considered it desirable for the pavement for several reasons, principally because it was long enough to save us quite a sum on right of way expenses. The merchants and most of the citizens favored it. So we asked for a new survey over that street and some of the other changes desired.

The committee began active work along this line and held frequent meetings with the highway engineers. They had become very anxious to get the mat-

ter off their hands and were ready to meet us with any reasonable change suggested. The changes were made, and the next move was to raise the money to pay for the right of way, but before that could be accomplished it was necessary to get options from the land owners interested, so we could determine the amount of cash necessary. There the trouble was started again.

There were four sections to be provided for. One section-#14-was turned over to the Kinderhook committee to be attended to, and the other three sections-#15, 16 and 17--fell to us as there were none others interested enough to help in the work. To T. J. McVay and myself fell the task of securing these options, and all the ingenuity we possessed was necessary to accomplish the work. The owners of a few small tracts of land donated them, but with these exceptions hardly a man we had to deal with was at all reasonable and asked two or three prices for the land. The committee realized they were being at the mercy of the landowners and were taken advantage of, but it was exceedingly important to close up the dedications and there seemed no way out of the dilemma but to accede to their demands. We settled with every man on the list, about forty, and on summing up the amount needed found it was nineteen thousand dollars, quite a sum to be raised in one small community. Commendation proceedings were started against one man who asked \$3000 for his option on land he was afterward glad to take \$800 for. That gave us a clean slate.

After taking the options another campaign was necessary to raise the cash to pay for the dedications. McVay and I fell for this job also. It was as big as the job of taking the options, but not quite so irksome. The first thing was to estimate the amounts to be asked for, and then we set out to raise the cash. With very few exceptions the estimates worked out as we had hoped, but unfortunately after we had gone our lengthwe were still several thousand dollars short of the sum needed. Our next move was to visit the chambers of commerce of Quincy and Hannibal and strike them for \$3000 each

as we felt these cities were to receive trade advantages from the proposed highway that would warrant such an outlay. We convinced Quincy merchants of their interest and got the sum asked for, but were not so successful with Hannibal, which city would only contribute \$1500. Both sums were accepted with thanks. Then the Pittsfield commercial club loaned us \$1250, making up the total sum we needed. The right of ways were bought and paid for, and the dedications were turned over to the state highway department after we had them all recorded.

One part of the financial operations I have neglected to state. That was our citizens guaranteeing by personal notes the sum of five thousand dollars, with the expectation of having it paid back if the board of supervisors would vote that much from the county treasury. That part of the program worked out as hoped for, but the citizens took long chances on it and won.

After receiving the dedications the state highway officers advertised for bids for the grading of the four sections and for five large bridges and numerous small culverts. The bridges were to cross Beebe, Hadley, McCraney, and Kiser creeks, and were really fine specimens of bridge work when completed. The grading of the four sections went to Stevens Brothers of St. Paul, Minn., who sublet Sections 16 and 17 to Arthur Leach of Omaha, Neb. The bridge contracts went to the Hardin Company of Carlinville, Ill., on McCraney creek; two Kiser creek, C. L. Laird; Hadley creek, Malone of Iowa; Beebe creek to Wusthulz Company of Claytonville, Ill.; all of whom did first-class jobs, and built bridges that are a credit to the system. The grading was completed in due time and in keeping with the contracts. These contracts were finished in 1925, all except the Hadley creek bridge, which took longer as it was not started until late in the fall of that year. The work was finished the following February.

Pavement contracts were let to Regenhardt Company of Cape Girardeau, Mo., on Sections 14, 15 &



Margaret at Five

16, and to the E. J. Eiff Company of Quincy, Ill., for Section 17, these companies being the low bidders. They completed their contracts by late in the fall of 1926.

The subway under the Wabash railroad was built at the same time the other paving work was going on. High water in Hadley creek came frequently to interfere with the work, and not until August, 1927 was the pavement ready for traffic to pass over it. The makeshift bridge used during the spring and summer before the concrete bridge was finished was a constant annoyance owing to washouts, but it served a good purpose, nevertheless.

The total costs to the state for grading, culverts, bridges, etc. was estimated at \$271,930, but this also included the cost of the subway.

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When I retired from the presidency of the Chamber of Commerce a year or two ago, I thought I had served my time, but the members would not have it that way. At the annual meeting in March, 1929, by unanimous vote they again forced it on me and I am in the work as much as ever. We are having some good meetings and the outlook is good for a favorable year.



BARRY IN 1855.

The two-story building on the left was occupied by E. Hurt. It was located where the Row and building now stands. The one-story building was where the Blair building now stands, and was occupied by M. Blair. Next is M. Blair's residence, then the Josiah Lippincott building where C. H. Ware is now located, then the Shield's building, now the Hollembaek corner, and the last building on the left was the Booth dwelling where is now the Masonic Temple. On the right is the store building occupied by Thos. T. Gray, now the Churchill corner. The open space seen in the picture is the public square, and the ox team is supposed to have been the property of Jack Jennings.

## HISTORY OF BARRY TOWNSHIP.

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In the year of 1903 I prepared a historical sketch of Barry Township for the Pike County Historical Society, at the request of Col. A. C. Mathews, president of the society. I am quoting a brief description of the township as written at that time;

"Barry Township is located in the north tier of townships in the west half of Pike County, Ill., is bounded on the north by Richfield, Adams county; on the east by Hadley; on the south by Pleasant Vale, and on the west by Kinderhook township. It consists of thirty-six sections and about 24,000 acres of land. The soil for the most part is rich and fertile, and is well adapted to grain raising, grass and all kinds of fruits. It is well supplied with springs and has two creeks, Hadley and Beebe coursing through the township. The land is principally rolling, although level tracts are to be found along the river and creeks bottoms. In natural resources the township is not surpassed in the county. The agricultural interests are well advanced and are carefully guarded.

The land is divided into farms of medium size, generally from forty to one hundred and sixty acres. Few farms contain more than a half section. There are crops of corn, wheat, oats, rye, timothy, clover and alfalfa hay. The land is really adapted to nearly all the staple crops grown; also all kinds of fruit can be raised, and of late years large apple orchards have been set out and are producing large yields of apples for the markets. Barry is one of the best of commercial fields for apples.

Most of the lands of Barry Township were taken up by claimants before the land came into the market. So it was that claims were bought and sold, the purchaser coming into possession of the improvements together with whatever might be considered pertain-

ing to it. Many quarrels and much contention resulted from this state of affairs, as might be expected.

The early settlers were kept busy subduing nature, building cabins, clearing the land, and breaking the virgin soil. The first settlers invariably located at or near the edge of a piece of timber and close to a spring, many of which watered the township. Some of the fields were cleared and plowed, generally with oxen, but occasionally with teams of horses. The work was hard as the soil was tough or the ground stumpy. No extensive farming was attempted. Small grain was in small quantities raised, some flax, oats, etc., and once in a while cotton if the farmer had some from the south, but cotton raising was soon abandoned as an unsuccessful experiment. Sheep were raised for the wool which was a very necessary article. Instead of using the riding plow of to-day, the early settler was content to use the old "bar share" plow of rude structure and deficient mechanism, with its wooden mould board as nature had fashioned it. Seed was sown, or rather brushed in, by dragging a sapling with a bushy top over the ground. Grain was harvested with the sickle or cradle, and threshing was done with a flail, or the grain was trodden out by horses or oxen instead of with the modern appliances of to-day.

The resources of the early settlers were very limited. They were all poor and in debt, and everything was bought on credit. When money was borrowed it was at exorbitant interest rates. Corn sold at 10 cents a bushel and wheat at 37 to 40 cents a bushel for the best grade. All kinds of merchandise was high, calico selling at 50 cents a yard and common domestic at 25 cents. Parched corn, ground hickory nuts and walnuts were used in place of coffee. Taxes were paid in coon skins, or anything the farmer or trapper could spare.

The mode of travel in those days was principally on horseback, except for short distances of a few miles were made on foot. Teaming was done with oxen and wooden wagons. Horse wagons and buggies were few. Wearing apparel was of home manufacture. Men wore buckskin pantaloons and coats, coonskin caps, and moccasins or

rudely made shoes for the feet were prepared by itinerant shoemakers who visited the homes of the settlers to supply the footwear. Women wove and made up material for their wear.

The living consisted principally of wild game, pork meat and corn dodgers. Wild honey was plenty, also wild fruits, but vegetables were a rarity. The habitations were log cabins with ends plastered between the cracks to keep out the winter's cold. The cabin consisted of one room in which was combined the sitting room, parlor, bed room and kitchen. One door was placed in the side, but there were no windows. The floor was of puncheon and on one side was a large fire-place with a blackened crane for cooking purposes. Overhead from the rude rafters hung rows of well cured hams and around the chimney were long strings of red pepper pods and dried pumpkins. The furniture consisted of a puncheon table, a clumsy cupboard, a couple of bedsteads made by driving stakes into the floor, in which were placed the uprights to support clapboards on which the beds rested, the wall furnishing the other supports; some blocks for seats, a spinning wheel, a well kept gun and a family dog. The cooking was done in iron vessels on and around the log fire. If the weather was cold the family large or company was present, which frequently happened, the wood was piled high on soas to raise the heat and "cause all hands to set back and give the cooks a chance."

The early settlers, those who came before 1830, were subjected to considerable trouble in obtaining legal title to their land. By agreement among themselves each man was permitted to "claim" as much timber land as he might need, generally not more than a quarter section, upon which he might build his cabin and make other improvements, and woe unto the speculator or new comer who attempted to "jump" a claim occupied by a bona fide settler. Most of the land in Barry township was taken by those claimants before the land came into the market. Many quarrels and contention resulted from that state of affairs, as might be expected. Another proceeding that would at this day be considered high-handed took place when the

land sales were held at Vandalia in October, 1829. The pioneers gathered there in numbers and when the lands of the township were offered for sale no speculator was permitted to purchase until all the settlers had made their selections.

St. Louis was the market for the settlers, but in a few years Louisiana, Mo., bid for their trade and later Hannibal and Quincy furnished the market for them. In reality the farmers of those days had little to sell and owing to their limited means were light buyers and only purchased such articles as were absolutely necessary. Not until the advent of the Hannibal and Naples railroad in 1869 did farming become general in our community. Since then it has been continued extensively, but not always profitably.

A troublesome problem for the pioneers was the absence of flour mills. They could raise the grain, but the primitive style of converting it into palatable flour was more difficult. The first year or two after the settlement the grain was pounded in a mortar or grated in a tin grater. Then came the hominy mill, which in turn was followed by the band mill. Flour was occasionally secured from St. Louis. In 1830 a flour mill was built at Rockport, and that place took on more than usual importance at once.

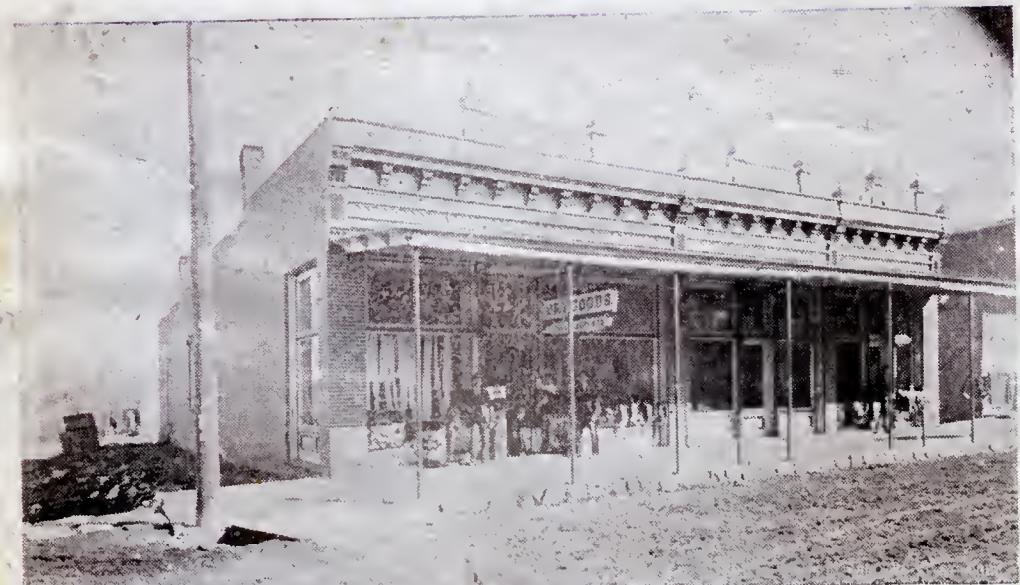
On going to the horse mills the settlers would have to take their turns in having their "grist" prepared and frequently they would have to wait days before they could be waited on. The horse mill was operated in the north part of Barry in 1837. Later the burrs were removed to a saw mill which Bartlett and Birdsong had built at the foot of what is now known as Diamond Hill, in Barry. This mill was sold to a firm called Brown & Owens, and burned in 1840, only a short time after they took possession.

John Burdan built a water mill on Hadley creek, near the Hadley township line, about 1842. It was not a success and soon quit business. In 1843 or 1844, Mr. Isaac G. Israel came over from Jacksonville, Ill., and built the Little St. Louis mill on Section 36 of this township, which was then a wilderness. This proved a great convenience and was hailed with delight by the residents. Israel operated on credit, having also em-

barked in the pork packing business and merchandising, and after about three years he failed. The mill then fell into the hands of Joseph Klein, an attorney, by whom it was sold in 1855 to B. D. Brown & John McTucker, who conducted it until the breaking out of the civil war, when it was purchased by Hancock Brothers. After that it was conducted by Hill & Bruns, Bruns & Earnst, Bright & Carter, W. F. White & Co., and N. S. Gunnells. The old building still is to be seen, but it was abandoned for flour making many years ago.

Wm. Shields built a flour mill in 1853, and some time after that he built another mill, which was later operated by Wike & Perry, who re-modeled it but the mill never was profitable and after several years trial, they gave up the business. With the introduction of the railroad C. S. Davis built a mill near the Wabash station in Barry. This mill in later years was taken over by Calvin Davis, one of the builders, who in turn sold it to the Barry Milling Company, a corporation organized by Eugene Smith, E. A. Crandall, M. G. Patterson, M. Strubinger and Bartholomew & Coe, who rebuilt the mill and operated it for several years. The company was disbanded in 1906, as a result of the failure of the Exchange Bank of Barry. A corporation operated the mill after that under the title of Barry Milling & Grain Company, but during their time the mill was destroyed by fire. It was not rebuilt after that.

Another important industry that was established in Barry township was a combined corn mill, saw mill and carding mill by Jesse Mason, which afterward purchased by George Wike, Sr. and was the foundation of the woolen mill so long known, near Barry. In 1843, George, David, Joseph and John Wike and J. P. Grubb, all practical woolen mill employes, under the firm name of Wikes & Grubb fitted out the mill with looms and other machinery for making cloth. There were nine employes, with George Wike, Sr., as superintendent, which office he held for years. The business increased and a brick addition was added to the frame building. In 1849, George Wike, Sr., again became sole owner of the property and he operated it



Last Location J. B. Watson

1914

until 1851, when the mill was leased by J. P. Grubb and O. H. Perry, who conducted it for several years. There was a reorganization in 1863 and a company called the Barry Woolen Mills was organized with George Wike, Sr., J. P. Grubb, O. H. Perry, D. W. Greene and E. A. Crandall as stockholders. Soon after this Jordon Freeman was taken in as a partner and a tobacco factory was added. In 1868 J. H. Wike and W.

G. Hubbard bought O. H. Perry's interest in the firm. A corporation called the American Woolen Mills an eastern company with Walter Fieldhouse as manager, bought the property, but they also made a failure of it, and then W. W. Bartholomew, one of the members of the company, bought the interests of the other members of the company, but after a short time he too retired from the business and the buildings and machinery were dismantled and sold.

A tanyard was operated on the Wright place west of town, by a man named Burch, prior to 1836, at which all kinds of leather was made. Wm. Hosier afterward operated the yard. They did only a small business.

Brick making was first introduced into the township by a man named Racey in 1845 at Little St. Louis. Wm. Lynch had a yard in the east part of Barry soon after that and in the early fifties Abram Badgley made the brick in the northwest part of town for the Methodist church of that day. Brick for the Baptist church was made on the farm of Ephriam Woodward one and a half miles north of Barry. In 1869, Ed. Churchill and Jeff Tabor had a yard in the north part of town, and a few years after that Ed. Churchill had a yard in the southwest part of town, where the Park Lawn Cemetery is now located. A. J. Bodine was another manufacturer in his day, and Herman Plassmyer had a yard near the location of the old woolen mills, he selling out later to W. T. Mitchell and J. B. Allen. N. P. Hart had a yard on his farm about a mile southwest of town in 1869. After that the Chiltons, J. C. and C. H., were in the business and their kilns were the last in the township or city.

Stone quarries abounded in the township for many a year, and lime kilns were plentiful. Stone for the

building purposes have been succeeded by cement, but quarries for lime stone to be ground for fertilizer purposes are now much in evidence, and the material is coming into general use in the township as well as elsewhere in Illinois.

In its early history this township also contained some distilleries where a grade of brandy and whisky were made and sold at 25c a gallon. Liquors were in use then as now, but the expense was not so great in those days.

At one time Barry township and Hadley were joined in an election precinct. The voting was done in Barry. Each elector would go before the judges and announce whom he desired to vote for and have his vote recorded. This plan was continued until the new constitution of 1849 was adopted, when each township was made a separate precinct. Elections, especially general elections, were slow making returns in those days and sometimes it was months before the results were known.

The first wedding in the township was that of Samuel Blair and Miss Lucy Brewster, Rev. Samuel Stoe officiating at his home. This couple's daughter, Louisa, was the first white child born in the township. The first death was that of Mrs. Amanda Davis, mother of Calvin and Samuel Davis, well known merchants of Barry in former years.

Wm. Blair preached the first sermon in his own log cabin on Section 30, in 1829. He also taught the first school in a log building on Section 28, in 1830.

Barry township was organized as a township in April 1850, as the result of an election held over the county the previous November. The first supervisor chosen was Montgomery Blair. The township was designated as Township Number Four South, Range Number Six west of the Fourth Principal Meridian, and still retains its title. The township government to-day is administered by the following officers: Supervisor, A. G. Crump; town clerk, Geo. Staggs; assessor, P. P. Johnson; J. P's, Lorain Strubinger, A. Vollbracht; highway commissioner, Elmer Thompson; constables, Wm. Newman,



Barry City Park.

1896

## BARRY HISTORY IN BRIEF.

It was during the days when the speculative fever at first swept over Illinois that the village of Worcester came into existence. After harvest in July, 1836, in the midst of wheat stubble, two men named Geo. Bartlett and John E. Birdsong, agents of Calvin Stone of the firm of Stone, Field & Marks, St. Louis, Mo., made the surveys and the plat of the future village. Mr. Stone was killed the same fall by the explosion of a steamboat on the Ohio river at Cincinnati. About the same time that Worcester was conceived another town about a mile east of that village was laid out onland that afterward was owned by B. D. Brown and John McTucker, which they named Redfield. This movement failed and the town never materialized.

Six weeks after the surveyors completed their work Worcester received its first inhabitants, David Green and family, consisting of husband, wife and seven children, of whom Joseph Greene, so long a resident here was one; Orlando Babcock, was also one of the party. All were natives of New York state. They took their abode in the one cabin in the place, which had previously been vacated by a man named Holcomb. Soon after other residents began to arrive. The one cabin was then situated at the corner of the intersection of Bainbridge and Mortimer streets. Other cabins were built.

Then came J. E. Birdsong. Geo. Bartlett, Henry O. Whitmore, Daniel Bary, John Cowan, and Wm. Crofton were the first. Others who followed were: Dr. A. C. Baker, Josiah and Wm. Lippencott, Stephen R. Gray, Mr. Peabody, Laurison Brown, Albert Tolcott and wife, Nelson Gray, Burton Gray, L. N. Ferris, D. W. Greene, I. G. Howe, Jas. B. Allen, F. M. Dabney, Calvin Jackson, John B. Hazen, Fred Frike, John C. Frike, R. W. Howlett, Lewis Angle, Chester R. Churchill, Jon Watson, Chauncey Metcalf, Jas. Yancy, P. E. Howland, Andrew Booth, Chas. S. Allen, David Shields, Albert G. Blake, Wm. Bright, Alex. Early, Wm. Eddingfield, M,

Allen Robinson, Jesse Chandler, John A. Hall, M. Lane  
The Jones, Hollembeaks, Kidwells, and others.

As newcomers appeared a boarding house became necessary, and David Greene became the first to establish one. With only one small room their accommodations were meagre, yet as high as twenty persons at a time received entertainment. While one table full (seven or eight person) were fed the rest of the boarders loafed about on the outside of the building and had their turns at eating. Sleeping room was obtained in the cabin, smokehouse, etc. Board cost \$1.25 a week.

The next boarding house was kept by Mr. Owe, who was a tailor, and had his shop and residence at that time in a dwelling built by John Blair in Block 38, in 1838. That same year the village was honored by a hotel, which was established by John Dellaven on Block 29, which remained a hotel up to a few years ago, several different landlords conducting the hotel during the intervening years.

The new village had hardly begun to function before complications arose over mail matters. It then developed that Illinois had another town named Worcester and the name of our village had to be changed on that account. It was renamed Baery.

Merchandising was introduced in the village by the two men who laid out the place, Bartlett and Armstrong. They conducted a small store for a few months in a building in Block 12, in nearly the northwest part of town. That was in 1836. Birdsong sold out his interest to David Greene, and the firm became Bartlett & Greene, who built a building at the old Blair corner, Lot 5, Block 23, and removed their stock there. This store was burned in 1837 and the firm quit business. Daniel Bary started a blacksmith shop in 1836 in the vicinity of the first store.

In 1838 Whitmore & Peabody opened a store on the Wendorff lot on the west side of the public square, there being no other store here then. Peabody died in 1840 and his surviving partner, Henry Whitmore, then built a small store building at the southeast corner of the public square, afterward the residence property of John H. Mallery. He also packed pork in the cellar of the store. Whitmore was succeeded by Theo.

Digby, who made a failure of it and sold out to his brother, James, who took in a partner and the firm was then known as Digby & Sears. Nathaniel Smith and Nathan Hadsell also kept a store on Lot 5, Block 8, in 1837, and the next year Gardner Mayes entered the grocery business at the same stand. Wm. Hart opened a harness shop on Lot 5, Block 8, Nelson Gray was another merchant who was in business at that period, as was also Mr. Scott, who had his store on Lot 2, Block 23, where the old location of Mayes & Son was.

In 1844 Isaac G. Israel engaged in business at the old Whitmore & Peabody stand. He was a speculator and packed pork and conducted a flour mill that he built in Little St. Louis. He built several new dwellings, a cooper shop, etc., and the place bid fair to out-rival Barry in its day, but Israel failed in 1847, and Little St. Louis blew up.

Lewis Angle came over from Hannibal in 1845, and opened a store 12x14 in size on Lot 6, Block 20, and the next spring he went into partnership with a Mr. Shields on the corner Lot 4, Block 23, the old Hollembeak corner. This firm succeeded for a while and was succeeded by Shields & Lillis in 1853, and later J. B. Chamberlin and Morris Hammond occupied the same room with their business. At the end of the year the firm changed to Hammand & Greene, and was followed by Greene & Richards, who retired at the breaking out of the civil war, Mr. Richards becoming a captain in the army.

Montgomery Blair went into merchandising at the corner of Lot 5, Block 23, about 1847 and operated on a cash system, a startling departure for that period. He was succeeded by M. Blair & Co., they by C. & S. Davis, and this firm by S. Davis & Sons, all of whom conducted general stores and packed pork. Blair & Co. sold lumber also.

Angle & Brown opened a store at the corner of Lot 1, Block 22, in 1849. They were succeeded by Angle & Crandall, they by Widby, Frike & Sweet, they by Angle (Lewis) and he in 1863 by Sweet & Mallery, later J. H. Mallery & Co.

John B. Chamberlin began the clothing business in

1858 in a building that had been removed to Barry from Little St. Louis. He afterwards bought Lot 8, Block 21, and built a store building there, which he occupied for years. He was succeeded by J. B. & A. J. Chamberlin, his son Albert being the partner.

Other early day merchants and up to the sixties were Elisha Hurt, Gray & Huntley, Gorton & Dutton, Jon Watson, L. D. White, W. F. White & Co., Hammond & Blades, Blades & Dutcher, E. W. Blades, T. A. Gorton, William Bright, M. Lane, Lane & Bernard, Jones & Hollembeak, Dr. Shepherd, Jasper & Sons, Cromwell & Wthitaker, Dr. Washburn, Josiah Rowand, and others.

Thus was laid the foundation commercially of our town of Barry. It was light picking the first few years and money was scarce. What cash there was in circulation was mexican money. Small change was hard to obtain and currency there was very little of.

Dr. A. C. Baker was the first physician. He came in 1837. About 1841 Dr. Cromwell located here and afterward came Dr. Barron, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Adams, Dr. S. C. Hatch, Dr. P. M. Parker, Dr. Parish, Dr. L. H. Callaway, Dr. G. H. Long, and others. Present physicians are Dr. R. H. Main, Dr. T. D. Kaylor, Dr. W. W. Kuntz, Dr. W. F. Reynolds.

Alfred Grubb was the first justice of the peace, and later was county judge; he was also an attorney.

Morris Hammond started the first livery stable. Today the business is almost extinct. It is all automobile garages now.

Early blacksmiths were Jas. Woods, Yancy & Dabney, James Yancy, Jackson Goodale, McConnell & Phenneger. At this time they are C. M. Holmes, D. S. Phenneger.

Undertakers: Schuyler Gray, Burton Gray, Lewis Harvey, Smith & Bulger, Henry Hildebrand, all of whom did their own making of the coffins. Undertakers now here are F. Hufnagle, Ed. Keller, Roy Dieterle.

Tradesmen: Mr. Bridges, first to arrive who did carpenter work; other carpenters: Burton Gray, Schuyler Gray, Laurison Brown, Solomon Phenneger, Thomas McIntire, John Spencer, Wm. Rositer, Daniel D. Gray, Alex. Liggett, John Piper, W. T. Mitchell, Geo. W. Clark, J. L. Terry, Geo. D. Mayes. Plasterers: Jas. Badgley, Wm.



Margaret at Four

Ware, Wm. Eddingfiled, John Booth, Ed. Churchill, Jas. B. Ailen. Stone masons: Sam Brown, Abiah Wright, J. Higgins, Jas. Eagan. Stone masonry is now a lost art in the country districts; its all cement work. In the plastering line we have Jas. Badgley, Gus Kinne, Mr. Shahan.

Up to 1838 there had been few frame houses erected; to not to exceed ten. All were log houses up to that time. The old Buckeye House, so long located on the west side of the city park was kept by Louis Harvey and was built in 1837.

Most of the surveying about town was done by A.G. Chamberlain, who got his field notes from the land office at Quincy.

There has always been a healthy religious sentiment in this section. As early as 1838 the Methodists organized a society and built a house of worship on what is known as Church Square, and in 1847 conference sanctioned the Barry circuit, with Rev. C. I. Packard and Rev. H. S. Shaw as "circuit riders." A brick church was built on Lots 3 and 4, Block 26, in 1851-2. This church was remodeled in 1872, and a new addition costing \$40,000 was added to it in 1924. It is a beautiful and modern edifice and meets the needs of the society. The present pastor is Rev. C. W. Hamand, who is filling the position very acceptably.

Barry Station was established by the Methodists in 1870, with Rev. J. W. Sinnock as pastor.

The Baptist church was established in June, 1829 at Atlas, Pike county, by Jacob Bowers and Jesse Sutton. In 1840 a committee was appointed to solicit funds to build a new church in Worcester, now Barry. The church was built on Block 1, Brown's Addition to Barry. A Sunday school was established by Rev. Chas. Mason the next year. The present church was built in 1853 and was dedicated early in 1854. Rev. W. H. Dickman is the new pastor.

The Christian church was organized in 1843, and in 1848 they built a brick church on Lot 3, Block 5, in Brown's Second Addition to Barry. Their Sunday school

was organized in 1867, with John H. Mallery as superintendent. This organization built a new church about 1898. Rev. C. W. Jacobs is the pastor at this time.

Other church societies that were organized in this place and flourished for a time, but finally passed out were: Congregationalists, who had a church on Lot 4, Block 49; the Universalists built a church on Lot 1, Block 18. Both of these buildings have long since been torn down and the lots are used for other purposes. Along in 1882 a society known as Christadelphians was organized and afterward the body was called as Christian Brethren. An itinerant preacher named Rev. Nichols led the flock and a church was built in the northwest part of town. Most of the members came to our town from other sections of the country. They all appeared to be well to do and were a good class of citizens. A few older citizens of town united with the church. The flock soon pulled up and left for Rochester, New York. Then in a few years they purchased a steamboat and operated on the Mississippi river, terming the boat a "Mission". Next the boat was sold and the party returned to Rochester. Since then several of the older members have passed on and the few that are left are not active.

Camp meetings were favorite forms of religious worship in the early days. They were quite common in mild weather and some great revivals resulted from these camp meetings. One of the favorite camp meeting grounds was just north of Little St. Louis.

Secret societies have always flourished here. We still have several branches of Masonry, three of I. O. O. F., Modern Woodman of America, Royal Neighbors, Pike County Life Association, and others.

The Barry public library was organized in 1876 as a private enterprise, but in 1884 it was turned over to the city and since then has been supported by taxation. It occupies its own building, donated by Mrs. B. D. Brown, and is well supplied with literature.

Banking began by the organization of the Exchange Bank of Barry in 1872. The firm was C. & S. Davis,

L. Angle and Eugene Smith, the latter being cashier. This firm was succeeded by Smith, Brown & Co. In 1905 this bank failed, owing to excessive loans to W. Bartholomew, pork packer. It was succeeded by Barry State Bank in 1906, which was organized by John Weber. I was a director of this bank, but sold my stock and retired as director. The First National Bank was organized in 1901, I was also a director of this bank, but sold my stock and retired from that board also. Since then I repurchased ten shares of this bank after selling out of the State Bank. I still hold this stock. The First National has grown to be a large and substantial bank. O. Williamson is cashier and T. A. Retallic, Pres, the State Bank, J. H. Jones is cashier and J. O. Strubinger is president.

The mail facilities of the pioneers were limited and the carriers were attended with hardships and often dangers. It was done principally on horseback. The main route the first few years was from Quincy to Carrollton, Ill. The trips were made to and fro once a week. Residents of Barry township received their mail from a side postoffice near where New Canton is now located. A carrier from Barry met the other through carrier and changed the incoming and outgoing mail, neither of which were very heavy. Daniel D. Gray and Wm. Smith were the local carriers. The Barry postoffice was established in 1839, Stephen R. Gray, postmaster. A few years after this our father, Jon Watson, held the office. Edwin C. O'Brien is the present postmaster. In 1853 the first daily mail was established for Barry. We were then on the route from Hannibal to Naples, Ill., and the route agents were Wren Smith, Nick Thornton and Wm. Duffield.

Electric lighting caused much speculating when it was first introduced in 1893. E. B. Hillman received the franchise. He conducted the plant in a half way style for a few years and then sold out to Fred Frike of Fowler, Ill., who in turn sold to a syndi-

cate from White Hall, Ill. The next owners were the Central Illinois Public Service Company, who rebuilt the plant, contracted for energy from the Keokuk Power Company, and raised the business to a high plane, giving us twenty-four hour service and first-class attention. The company is the big company of Illinois.

Barry was incorporated as a town in 1856, as the result of and in consequence of an election held on January 24th of that year. 92 votes were cast and all for the proposition. The trustees elected to govern the town were: Alfred Grubb, Dr. N. Cromwell, Chas. S. Allen, Jon Watson, and F. M. Dabney, who held their first meeting Jan. 31, 1856. Jon Watson was elected as president and Jon Shastid as clerk.

In 1872, Barry was organized as a city. The petition to change to that form was filed by C. S. Allen, Jas. Holmes, A. C. Hollenbeck, Lewis Angle, and forty-six others, and as a result of the move and election was ordered which took place Sept. 16, 1872. Only 60 votes were cast, all favorably. Officers elected then were: E. R. Burnham, mayor; J. R. Rowand, John Weber, N. R. Davis, Jas. S. Watson and Selah Mors and Matt Peterson, aldermen; C. C. Roasa, city clerk; W. I. Klein, attorney; J. C. Brown, treasurer; J. Whittleton, marshall; J. E. Haines, street commissioner.

City officers this year are: T. J. McVay, retiring and C. M. Holmes succeeding, mayor; Dr. W. F. Reynolds, W. G. Hurt, Otis Oitker, Veldie Barnes, C. A. Green, A. Vollbracht, aldermen; Glen McNeal, city clerk; Lilah Boyd, treasurer; A. L. Sederwall, marshall and street commissioner; Geo. Grammer, engineer; Jas. W. Evans, police magistrate.

Following are the principal merchants and professional people of Barry in 1929:

Dry goods, L. F. Bright, W. H. Ogle; clothing, J. Sessel & Co., Clark & Barnes; Furniture, Wendorff & Co., B. A. Campbell; Grocers, Crump & Son, Kiefer's,

Krogers Grocery & Bakery; G. W. Buffington; books & stationery, G. L. Ware; hardware, Grammer Ramsey Co. A. Vollbracht, T. F. O'Brien; Lawson Hardware Co.; Meat markets, L. G. Brown, A. H. Davis; novelty store, G. J. Clifton; bakery, city; cigar manufacturer, J. E. Dennis; poultry, Bartholomew Bros., Barr & Sparrow, E. Scotten; electric supplies, C. I. P. S. Co., Alva Kaylor; feed mill and coal, E. E. Bonifield, Barry Milling and Grain company; telephone, Pike Co. Tel. Co.; monuments, Retallic & Garrett; electric lights, Central Illinois Public Service Company; filling stations, C. A. Doyle, F. H. Tholen, Geo. Lippencott; drug store, H. F. Behrenmeyer, Ed. F. White; banks, First National, Barry State; hotel, Potter House; bakery; restaurants, C. E. Mason, Nichols & Fusselman; garage, Lease Motor Co., John Lamp, W. E. Peterson, F. H. Tholen;



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